LIBERIA.

A republic founded by black men, reared by black men, maintained by black men, and which holds out to our hope the brightest prospects.—HENRY CLAY

BULLETIN No 32. FEBRUARY, 1908.

ISSUED BY THE

AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

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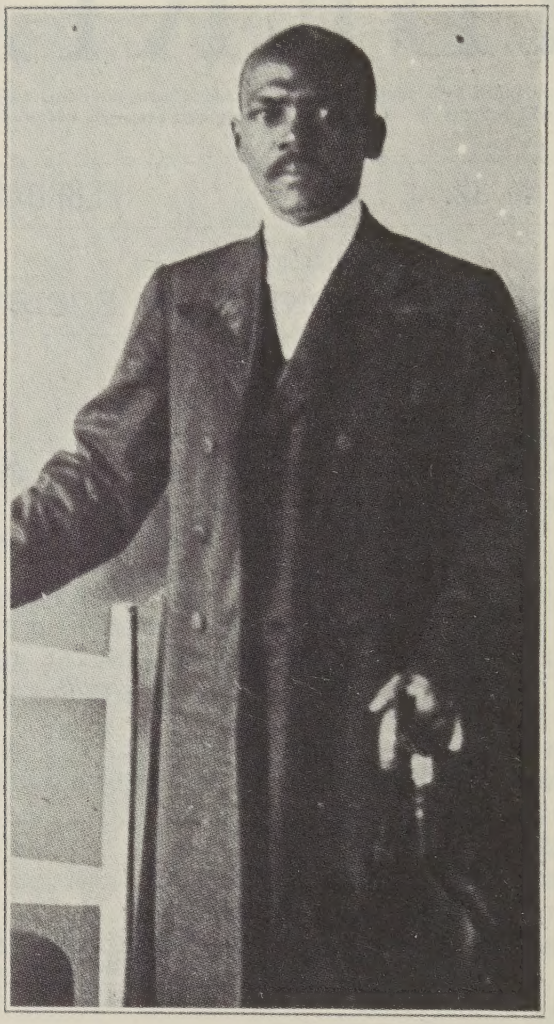
WASHINGTON, D. C.
COLONIZATION BUILDING, 450 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE.



N. H. GIBSON, B. A.

SON OF EX-PRESIDENT G. W. GIBSON; GRADUATE OF LIBERIA COLLEGE; COUNSELLOR AT LAW, AND PRIVATE SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT BARCLAY.

LIBERIA.

BULLETIN No. 32. **FEBRUARY, 1908.**

THE NINETY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January* 21, 1908.

The Board of Directors of the American Colonization Society met today at 12 m., in the rooms of the Society, 450 Pennsylvania avenue N. W., Washington, D. C.

James L. Norris, President *pro tem.*, presided.

Mr. J. Ormond Wilson, the Secretary, being confined to his home by a serious accident, on motion, Miss Coppinger acted as Secretary *pro tem.*

Miss Coppinger was granted a vacation of two weeks, to be taken when convenient.

On motion, a recess was taken until March 24, 1908, at 2 p. m. The Secretary was directed to give the members due notice.

I. M. COPPINGER,
Acting Secretary.

IMPORTANT TO OUR PEOPLE.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALA., *November* 1, 1907.

Again I beg to request that you permit me through the columns of your valuable newspaper to address the colored people of the South, in relation to a matter which is of the most vital, pressing, and far-reaching importance—upon a matter which very largely depends the whole future of our race.

I call attention to the matter at this time because our people as a whole have more money just at this period of the year than is true of any other period. I am most anxious and concerned that they shall husband their money and that it be not squandered for things that they can get along without, and that a

large proportion of it shall go towards the education of the children of the masses of the race. During the fall of the year and at Christmas season our people literally waste thousands of dollars that might be spent for their permanent welfare. I would particularly, through your newspaper, reach the people of the smaller towns and country districts, where not less than 85 per cent. of our people live.

With but few exceptions the provisions made for the public schools for Negro youth throughout the country districts is very poor. The school terms are short, and in many cases the teachers themselves have not had enough education to fit them to uplift those whom they are called upon to teach. There are many exceptions, of course, but in the main what I have stated is true. I am making this appeal more especially for the children of the masses between the ages of five and sixteen years, who must get all of their education in the public schools. Few of these can or will be sent away to a boarding school, an industrial school, or a college. If the rank and file of our children do not get their education in the public schools, they will get none at all.

If the children of this generation grow up in ignorance, it goes without saying, of course, that the children of the next one also will grow up in ignorance, and the race will perpetually have fastened upon it stupefying ignorance and all the attending ills. Leaders among our people in every community throughout the South should make it a duty to keep in close and sympathetic touch with the public school officials. They should secure every dollar possible for school buildings, for school repairs, for good teachers, and for the extension of the school term, but if the school authorities cannot or will not provide these requisites for the education of our children, every community should organize movements through which the children may be educated. They should be educated at any cost. The people should tax themselves to supplement what the public schools are already doing.

I know at this time of communities where the school term has been extended to six and eight months by the simple planting of a "school farm." On the school farm, cotton and other products are raised and the money used for supplementing the school

term. If some communities have done this, others can do it. The colored people of Macon county, Alabama, the county in which I live, raised more than $3,000 last year by extra taxation to help educate the children of the country schools. More than twenty new school-houses have been built and a majority of the schools have had their terms extended to six and eight months as a result of this organized movement. I very much hope that similar organized movements may be undertaken throughout the South by our people. The teacher who remains in a community without improving the school-house or lengthening the school term needs to be replaced by a better and more enterprising teacher. At this time the most urgent need is in three directions:

First: Good school-houses. Some of the school-houses at present in use are not fit for cattle to use, and united efforts to improve this condition of affairs should be made.

Second: Organized efforts should be directed everywhere to extend the school terms to at least six and eight months in the year. A three or four months school term means practically nothing in the education of children.

Third: A good teacher, by all means, should be secured, and when secured should be retained. A good teacher cannot afford to teach unless he is well paid. It is impossible for a good teacher to remain in a community and receive only $15 or $20 a month. A teacher really worth having should be paid at least $30 or $40 a month and for six or eight months in the year.

In closing this communication, I would urge that now is the time of year for each community, through its ministers and other leaders, to give attention to this matter. Now is the time that the people have money; to delay until after the Christmas season will mean that the money will have been squandered and no permanent improvement will have been brought about. If necessary, meetings should be called at once to direct the people's attention to this important matter.

In every part of the South there should be made this year, as never before, a united effort to better the condition of the public schools for our children. In every part of the South there are some white school officials who are interested in the education of the Negro, and just in proportion as we can convince them that

we are willing to do all in our power in encouraging self-help, I feel that in like proportion good results will follow. Moral and religious training should at all times go hand in hand with the mental improvement of the children.—*The Christian Recorder.*

VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA.

The visit of President Barclay to the governor of Sierra Leone, which occurred on the 16th inst., is the second official visit paid to the governor of this colony by a President of Liberia. The first visit occurred in 1862, when President Stephen Allen Benson was received by His Excellency Colonel Stephen John Hill, then governor of Sierra Leone. The occasion, of course, excited considerable interest in the community, no such event having occurred during the present generation.

President Barclay, President of the Republic of Liberia, who had been on a visit to Europe, and had been received by King Edward, arrived from England by the steamship *Mandingo,* on Wednesday morning, 16th inst., accompanied by the Hon. F. E. R. Johnson, Secretary of State of the Republic, and Hon. T. M'Cants Stewart, Deputy Attorney-General.

It was not generally known that the President was a passenger in the steamer due, but the information of his expected arrival had been conveyed to the government some days previously, and steps were taken to arrange for his landing and reception. At eight o'clock on Wednesday morning the governor's aide-de-camp, Captain Tomlinson, went on board to communicate to the President the arrangements for his reception, and returned on shore. Immediately after, the Liberian Consul, Mr. C. May, J. P., went on board and conferred with the President, and was also in attendance on him throughout his stay.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary, G. B. Haddon-Smith, Esq., C. M. G., accompanied by the A. D. C., went on board at a few minutes before nine, and, having been introduced to the President and his suite by the Consul, the President and party were rowed on shore in the governor's barge, steered by E. W. Cole, Esq., the harbor master. As soon as the President landed the royal salute of twenty-one guns was fired from King Tom bat-

tery. Mr. Haddon-Smith introduced the President to His Worship the Mayor, Hon. J. H. Thomas, and a few of the gentlemen who had gone to the landing stage to welcome him, and as he proceeded he received the military salute from a guard of honor which had been drawn up at a convenient spot on the wharf by a company of West India soldiers, the band playing the Liberian national anthem.

The President walked to Government House between the Hon. Colonial Secretary and the Liberian Consul, and received a most enthusiastic ovation from the large crowd who had gathered along the approaches and lined the thoroughfares through which the President passed. The President cordially acknowledged the cheers.

On arriving at Government House, President Barclay was received by His Excellency Governor Probyn, assisted by the members of the executive and legislative councils, to each one of whom the President was introduced. The governor then shook hands with the members of the suite, to whom he was introduced by the President.

The governor and the President then retired to the veranda, where they conversed for about half an hour, while his suite exchanged conversation with the councillors. The President and his suite breakfasted with the governor, at which were present the following: His Hon. Sir P. Crampton Smyly, Chief Justice; Hon. Col. Montenaro, Officer Commanding the Troops; Hon. G. B. Haddon-Smith, C. M. G., Colonial Secretary; Hon. E. T. Packard, Attorney-General; Hon. S. Renshaw, Acting Colonial Treasurer; Hon. A. P. Viret, Collector of Customs; Hon. J. J. Thomas; Hon. C. E. Wright, M. A.; Hon. J. H. Thomas (mayor); Major Lee, Chief Staff Officer; Mr. C. May, Consul for Liberia; Mr. F. A. Miller, Governor's Clerk, and Captain E. J. Tomlinson, A. D. C., in the course of which the governor, in a brief speech, wished President Barclay *bon voyage*. The President then thanked the governor for his reception and wished him continuous prosperity in the administration of the colony of which he is the head. During breakfast the band of the West African regiment played several selections in the new hall at Government House.

At 11 o'clock the mayor and members of the corporation of Freetown waited on the President and presented the following address, which was read by the town clerk, P. E. Moore, Esq., barrister-at-law:

CITY COUNCIL, FREETOWN,
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE, 16*th October*, 1907.

To His Excellency ARTHUR BARCLAY,
President of the Republic of Liberia.

May it please Your Excellency:

We, the undersigned members of the city council of Freetown, Sierra Leone, for ourselves and the citizens of Freetown, do hereby seize this opportunity of your presence among us to offer Your Excellency a hearty welcome to this city and to congratulate you on your safe return to Africa from your official visit to Europe.

We have been highly pleased with the recognition and courtesy that have been accorded to you by our sovereign, His Majesty King Edward VII, and by the other sovereigns and governments of Europe whose countries you have visited.

One in their origin, race, and past history, with the same language, having the same aims and aspirations, the two countries, Liberia and Sierra Leone, coterminous to each other, seem to us destined, the difference of governments nevertheless, to walk hand in hand, and in the natural evolution of events to draw nearer and nearer to each other.

This idea has strongly impressed itself on our minds, and we trust will be reciprocated in Liberia, so that the two peoples may work with that end in view and study to promote in every way the mutual good will and understanding of each other.

We are all the more grounded in this our conviction when we notice how gradually your Republic is opening itself out to English co-operation and influence, and which we take as a happy augury for the mutual progress and advancement of Liberia and Sierra Leone.

We would now most respectfully request Your Excellency to take with you to the people of Liberia the sincere expression of the good will and esteem of the citizens of Freetown and of the people of Sierra Leone in general.

With every mark of respect, we remain, Your Excellency's most humble servants.

For the mayor, councillors, and citizens of Freetown:

(Sgd.) J. H. THOMAS,
Mayor.

The President made the following reply:

Your Worship and Gentlemen:

I have heard with pleasure the address with which you have honored me. It has given me great pleasure to make this visit to Governor Probyn and your city, and I regret that circumstances prevent me from spending a longer time in seeing your city.

I recognize the truth of what you have said, namely, that we, yourselves and the people of Liberia, are one in origin, one in race, one in language, and I may add one in aspiration. We both feel that our relations should be of the closest friendship and helpfulness. The people of Liberia take the warmest interest in the progress and prosperity of Sierra Leone, and I am sure that you are likewise interested in our national growth.

The people of Liberia owe a great deal to the English people for the sympathy and aid they have given us in the past decades, and I bear back to my home the warmest assurances of the British people that they desire to see our Republic prosperous and successful. I am sure that the help which we have received from Europe by way of commerce and education will be proven to have been spent upon an aspiring and worthy race. Certainly, Freetown is a splendid illustration of the ability of our race to absorb and profit from outside help. We have many Sierra Leoneans in Liberia helping us in various ways to work out our national problem, and all worthy persons who may come over to help us will always receive the warmest welcome. I am sure that we feel that the future of Sierra Leone is bright because it enjoys the leadership of such a chief executive as Governor Probyn. And the future will bring both Liberia and Sierra Leone closer together as we mutually tread the path of progress and prosperity.

The deputation which was introduced to the President by the mayor then withdrew.

The President subsequently took leave of Governor Probyn, assuring the governor of the pleasure it afforded him to have visited Freetown. The governor then bade good-bye to the members of the suite.

The President was conveyed to the wharf in the governor's hammock, accompanied by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, the Aide-de-Camp, Hon. J. J. Thomas, and Hon. C. E. Wright. The Consul walked down to the wharf with the Secretary of State and the Attorney-General.

The barge being in readiness, the President and party entered and were rowed back to the steamer. The Secretary and Aide-de-Camp then took leave of the President and his party and returned on shore.

The Consul remained with the President till a few minutes before the steamer left, when he returned on shore. As the *Mandingo* was sailing outwards from the harbor a farewell salute was fired from King Tom battery.—*Sierra Leone Weekly News.*

THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY.

A PART OF THE ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT, REV. WILBUR P. THIRKIELD, D.D., LL.D.

The needs and claims of the Negro for such an education as will draw forth the entire man to his best is grounded in his humanity. The demands of modern sociology are for a social consciousness that shall be characterized by a threefold conviction of essential likeness of men, of the mutual influence of men, and of the value and sacredness of the person. This means that all men should be sons of God and brothers of their fellow-men; that no race is left without witness of the divine in mental and moral capacity; that men are so bound up together that education must be for all; and that the personality of every man is sacred.

Democracy bears living witness to the capacity of the downmost man. There are in American history numberless examples of the fact that the common man has stored up in him uncommon powers for highest life and service of man. Lincoln, Grant, Douglass are only conspicuous examples.

Howard University stands for just this: It simply opens to any man of any race the chance to unfold the best and divinest that is in him, so far as broad educational opportunity is a help to this end.

While we make strong plea for the higher education, we believe with President King, in his great inaugural, that "nothing justifies the extraordinary emphasis on the intellectual as the one aim of education." The end in education is not simply smartness, but character, moral virility, goodness, usefulness. Let there be scholarship, high and unfettered. Let the doors to widest knowledge be thrown open to every man; but the aim shall be scholarship not for its own sake, or for the sake of mere personal gain, but scholarship held in trust for the sake of the human race and for the quickening and uplifting of national life—manhood along with scholarship.

A liberal education is thus far more than a training in mental strength and acuteness. It is the broadening of the whole man, so that he takes in, appropriates, and finds power to use the best that has been thought and done—all knowledge for his own good and that of others. Such an education makes for breadth of view, sanity, the scientific spirit, power of initiative, and civil, moral, and economic efficiency. It makes for moral character, endurance, and the adaptation of every capacity and attainment to the service of man. Any other sort of education is rotten at the core.

While efficient industrial training alone is not sufficient for the rounded and complete life of any people, it is essential that all men be trained to make a living. It is imperative that men also be trained to make a life. In this age of overmastering material tendencies, there is call for teaching that shall emphasize the principle that a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things which he possesseth.

The supremacy of mind; the domination of spirit, which alone can lift the common tasks to the level of the noblest ideals; the call for the liberation of the higher energies of the whole man; the broadest discipline for the exceptional men and women as leaders and helpers of their people in the larger life, must also be emphasized. For this Howard University stands.

If the Negro race is to come to real freedom and true spiritual power and progress; if it is ever to find its place in the kingdom—which is not mere meat and drink, but righteousness, peace, and joy in holiness of spirit—there must be a body of elect men and women trained to large knowledge, broad vision, and lofty spiritual purpose, who, as teachers and moral leaders, shall lift the standard and lead their people out into the larger life. The upward pull through trained leadership; the character-begetting power of strong personalities; the inspiration to higher ideals, to self-mastery, to efficient service through genuine race leadership, must be recognized. Where there is no vision the people perish. Without such teachers, helpers, and leaders, the common school and even the industrial school must fail and the race sink to lower levels. The stream cannot rise above its fountain.

In this spirit should the mission of Howard University to the higher education of a race be conceived and carried out. To such institutions is committed the preparation of the teachers, preachers, physicians, lawyers, and moral leaders of a people who, called not to be ministered unto, but to minister, may give their lives a ransom for many. The College of Arts and Sciences here in the Capital of the nation, with the libraries, museums, and the scientific and other facilities ministering to culture and scholarship, furnishes the finest center for the broadest education as a basis for largest life and the highest professional training of the leaders of a race who number over ten million native-born American citizens.

Of unsurpassed importance to the higher life of a race is the equipment of teachers for the schools. The work in ten thousand common and secondary schools is now turned over to colored teachers, who in 1906 numbered 27,747. Within the next decade they are to shape the methods and determine the ideals of these schools with multitudes of young people in training for life. Without trained teachers this segregation means inferior schools. The normal schools available for colored teachers are few and often inadequate. Therefore the imperative call for a thoroughly equipped college for teachers here at the center of the nation, that shall at small cost give the most approved and effective modern training to the teachers of a people.

On this higher education all real education depends. The fountain head of learning is not the common school, but the college. Significant is the word of Dr. Harris, formerly U. S. Commissioner of Education, in his plea for "secondary or higher education of the Negro." It is seed sown where it brings forth a hundredfold, because each one of the pupils of these higher institutions is a center of diffusion of superior methods and refining influences among an imitative and impressible race. All outside aid should be concentrated on the secondary or higher education.

For forty years strong, brave men—men with courage equal to their lofty ideals for a race—have builded their thought and life into the professional schools of Howard University. Their graduates are now constructive helpers and healers of their fellow-men. These schools were never so crowded. The call for trained men was never so urgent. The demand now is imperative for larger equipment if the urgent needs of a race are to be answered.

The organization, equipment, and direction of the great colored denominations, with a membership of 2,532,843 and property valued at $28,157,744, is an achievement without parallel in a race only forty years out of bondage. The minister is yet the center of power. To maintain this leadership and to hold the rising generation to the church, ministers of intellectual breadth, clean life, and spiritual vision are required.

Here is a School of Theology with no sectarian of denominational tests, interdenominational and evangelical in its work.

The School of Medicine, opened in 1868, has sent forth 1071 trained graduates. The high standard and efficiency of this school are acknowledged by the profession. The united terms of service of nine of the senior faculty who are still teaching is over two hundred and sixty years. Their work has affected the physical well being of multitudes in the nation. The course of study and methods of instruction are abreast of the latest scientific standards.

The completion of the Freedmen's Hospital, for which the University has ceded to the government a valuable park of eleven acres, gives clinical facilities unsurpassed. This is the only large hospital with modern appliances that is open, in a broad way, to

the colored physician or student. Northern colleges do not now give him the welcome once cordially extended. While there is one medical student to every three thousand white people, there is but one to every fourteen thousand colored people. Yet the thorough equipment of the colored physician was never so vitally important as now.

The thorough preparation of the Negro doctor involves the well being of both races. The solidarity of the races in America in relations and interests is fixed. For weal or woe the growing millions are bound together. In thousands of communities epidemics and diseases in one race menace all. The fact that consumption mortality in New Orleans is three and one-third times greater for colored than for white, and in St. Louis and Chicago over three times as great, should sound the alarm.

The growing segregation of the races, the awakening of a new race consciousness, and the forming of independent centers of civic and industrial life for the Negro emphasize the call for trained men in the professions. Howard University is organized for this work, and calls for largest equipment to carry out its plans for professional training.

Howard University has a body of alumni numbering nearly three thousand. The vast majority honor their alma mater. Hundreds today are in positions where they wield large influence for good. They have justified the founding and work of the University.—*The New York Age.*

A CHAT WITH THE SIRDAR, GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE SUDAN.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

I am just back from the palace, where I have had a long talk with Sir Francis Reginald Wingate, the sirdar of the Egyptian army and the governor-general of the Sudan. The sirdar is the ruler of the Sudan, a country one-fourth as large as all Europe, and four times the size of any principality in it excepting Russia. He has more power than the Czar, and he can do almost anything as to his country and people. One of the chief officers in the wars with the mahdi and the khalifa, he won decoration after

decoration for his bravery and military services, and was in command of the operations which resulted in the death of the khalifa in 1899. It was in that year that he took possession of this country as sirdar and governor-general, and since then he has been bringing order out of the chaos of this part of Africa. He has pacified the warring tribes, has turned their lances and guns into plowshares and shepherds' crooks, and is now creating civilized conditions where have always been barbarism, injustice, slavery, and war. An explorer of note before he became governor-general, he has now his prospectors traveling through every part of this vast region, and is laying out and starting the railroad, canal, irrigation, and other movements which will open it up and make it one of the live parts of the world.

The sirdar is now in his prime. He has seen perhaps fifty years of hard-working life, but he does not look over forty-five, and were it not that his hair and mustache are mixed with silver, one would think him much younger. His face is free from wrinkles and his complexion rosy; his eyes are full of light and his whole appearance indicates health and strength. A great part of his career has been spent in the saddle. He has not only traveled over the most of Egypt and the Sudan, but has gone on diplomatic missions to Abyssinia, and now holds close personal relations with King Menelik and his leading officials. The sirdar spends a part of every year traveling by boat or on camels through the several of his far-away provinces, and he has just recently returned from a long trip in Kordofan. He talks freely about his country and he knows it so well that what he says is interesting.

During my conversation with His Excellency I asked him something as to the possibilities of the Sudan, saying that most people looked upon it as nothing else than a vast desert. He replied:

"That idea comes largely from the bleak and barren sands through which the railroad takes travelers on their way to Khartum. They have also read of the immense swamps of the upper Nile, and, putting the two together, they look upon the country as only swamp and desert. The truth is the Sudan is an undeveloped empire as to its material resources. It is a land of many climates and of all sorts of soils. The desert stops not far from Khartum, and beyond that is a region where the rainfall

is sufficient for regular crops. Still further south the country has more rain than is needed; and in the west are great areas fitted for stock rearing.

"Take, for instance, the country along the Abyssinian border and that which lies between the White and Blue Niles. Those regions have been built up in the same manner as Egypt; and they contain all the rich fertilizing materials which have made the lower Nile valley one of the granaries of the world. The only difference is that the Egyptian soil, by the cultivation and watering of thousands of years, has been leached of its best fertilizing elements; while the soil of the Gezireh, as the region I have referred to is called, has hardly been touched. Indeed, the plain between the White and Blue Niles is so rich that, if water is put upon it, it will produce four or five crops every year, and that for many years in succession. We have millions of acres of such soil; and they only await the hand of man to bring them into the world's markets as live commercial factors."

"What kind of crops can be raised in that country, Your Excellency?" I asked.

"Almost anything that is now produced in Egypt," was the reply. "The Gezireh is already growing a great deal of durra, a millet whose seed forms the chief food of the natives. It produces an excellent hard wheat and also maize. As it is now, that plain is the chief granary of this part of the world. It raises so much that, when the season is good, the crops are more than the people consume, and at such times the grain is stored away in great pits. I have seen durra pits forty feet deep and about fifty feet in diameter. They are to be found about almost every village; and, at ordinary times, are kept full of grain for fear of a famine. While the mahdi reigned his soldiers robbed the durra pits, and the result was that whole communities were wiped out by starvation."

"But if the bad years eat up the good ones, where is the Sudan to get its grain for export?" I asked.

"That will come by irrigation and better transportation. As it is now, the people rely upon the rainfall, which is not sure. In the future that country can be irrigated by the two Niles, and that without diminishing the supply of water required for Egypt. Then the land will have water all the year round. Improved

methods of cultivation will enormously increase the crops. At present, the native merely walks over the ground after a rain and stirs it up with a stick, while his wife or child comes behind dropping the seeds and covering them with their feet. After planting nothing is done until two months later, when the crop is ready for reaping.

"As to transportation, everything is brought to the river on donkeys or camels, which eat their heads off on the way, and it has to come down the Nile on boats at high freight. We hope to soon build a railroad into the Gezireh, which will give it an outlet to the Red sea; and there will be other roads branching off from that, furnishing transportation facilities for the whole country."

"But is the region between the White and Blue Niles the only country you have where grain can be raised?"

"By no means. We can raise grain in nearly every province. There are grain areas in the south and in the west. The Bahr-el-Ghazal, an immense country on the northern edge of the Congo watershed, will raise grain, and there are many regions along the rivers in the north which will produce enormous crops when the water is put upon them."

"How about cotton?"

"I see no reason why the Sudan should not eventually be one of the chief cotton countries of the globe. We are experimenting with it in all the provinces, and are meeting with great success. The land between the White and Blue Niles might be made one great cotton plantation, and the quality of the crop would be excellent. As it is now we are raising excellent cotton on the Red sea near Suakim. There are about 30,000 acres planted there, and the crop is a profitable one. Plantations are being set out by foreigners near Khartum, and the cotton raised is fully equal to the best Egyptian. One of your own countrymen, Mr. Leigh Hunt, is experimenting on a large scale with different kinds of American cotton, a little north of here, near the mouth of the Atbara river. He says that the Sea Island cotton will grow there, and that he has no doubt of the future of that region as a cotton producer. Indeed, I see no reason why cotton should not be largely raised in all our southern provinces."

"But how about your labor, Your Excellency; have you the workmen necessary to cultivate such crops?"

"That is a problem which only the future can solve," replied the governor-general of the Sudan. "We have all kinds of natives here, and that in all the different stages of savagery and semi-civilization. There are hundreds of tribes whose people can be taught to work and others the members of which will need many years before they can be made into such farmers as we have in Egypt and India. We have some who will work only long enough to get food and supplies for their immediate needs and who, when a little ahead, will spend their time in dancing and drinking the native beer until they become poor again. We have also a large admixture of Arabs and other races which are of a far higher character, and of these we expect much."

"Would it be impossible to import labor for the Sudan?" I asked.

"No, I think not. We may in time import some outside labor, although it is probable that the Africans will always do most of the work. We could use East Indians. They live in about the same latitude, and their climate is somewhat similar. Besides, they are not averse to going away from home to work."

"Can Caucasians live here?"

"Not as day laborers to work out of doors summer and winter. They might act as overseers and in positions where they will not have to endure the heat of the sun. There are some places where they seem to thrive. Here in Khartum we have had many Italians at work, and they do not seem to be any worse for it. The Italians serve as mechanics. The chief labor will probably always be furnished by the Africans."

"Do you see many changes in the condition of the natives since the British occupation?"

"Yes. They are doing far better than in the past. They wear more clothing, they have more wants, and are working to supply them. Formerly many went naked, and, as there was no security of property and few wants, they had no incentives to save. When we came here the taxes were levied at the will of the rulers, and the rich native was sure to be persecuted. Now taxes are fairly levied, and the natives are larning that their savings will be respected. They are coming to have faith in us. Our first business was to make them realize that we intended to treat them fairly and honestly, and I believe we have succeeded. We had

also to organize the country, so that it might be able to pay the expenses of its government. We are fast reaching that stage."

"Is your native population increasing?"

"Very rapidly," replied the sirdar. "I am surprised at the large number of children who have been born since we took possession of the Sudan. The provinces fairly swarm with little ones under seven years of age. During my recent trip through Kordofan, I carried a lot of small coin with me to give to the children. The news of this traveled ahead, and as soon as we approached a village we would be met by the babies in force. Nearly every peasant woman came forward with a half dozen or more little naked blacks and browns hanging about her, and the children ran out of such tents as we passed on the way. The Sudanese are naturally fond of children, and especially so when times are good and conditions settled as they are now. They want as many children and grandchildren as the Lord will give them, and as most of the men have two or three wives it is not an uncommon thing for a father to have several additions to his family per year."

"What is your present population and its possible future?"

"We have today, I should say, at least two millions in the Sudan. As to the future I cannot prophesy that with any degree of accuracy, although I can safely say that the Sudan could support tens of millions if its lands were properly used. It is said that there were twelve million natives here before the times of the mahdi, and there is no reason why there should not be five times as many in the future as there were then. That would give us a population of sixty millions, and the probability is that we will some time far exceed that figure. Egypt, with a cultivable area of twelve thousand square miles, has about twelve millions. With peace, fair government, and the development of our agricultural resources along modern lines, the Sudan may have a future beyond our conception."

"Your Excellency has been traveling on camel back through Kordofan. Is that country likely to be valuable in the future?"

"I do not see why it should not be," replied the governor-general. "It is one of the stock-rearing regions of this part of the world, producing a vast number of cattle and camels. Much of the meat now used in Khartum comes from Kordofan, and

camels are reared there for use throughout the Libyan and Nubian deserts. The southern half of the country is devoted to cattle, and is inhabited by stock-rearing people. Every tribe has its herds, and many tribes are nomadic, driving their stock from pasture to pasture. North of latitude thirteen, the camel country begins and one finds camels by the thousands. The country seems to be especially adapted to them."

"What is the nature of the land west of Kordofan?"

"I suppose you mean Darfur. That country is ruled by a sultan who pays tribute to us. It is a hilly land traversed by a mountain range furnishing numerous streams. It is well populated, and was for a long time a center of the slave trade. The natives there are comparatively quiet at present, although every now and then a war breaks out between some of the tribes. This is likewise so in Kordofan. The people are brave and proud, and they have frequent vendettas. The chief want of Kordofan is railway communication, and we hope to supply that as soon as we can."

I here asked the sirdar to tell me something of the mineral deposits recently discovered in this part of the world. He replied:

"We have not prospected the country as yet, although we are beginning to do so. We expect to make a thorough geological survey, and have begun by platting some of the provinces and drawing maps which show everything in connection with them. I refer to maps like these."

The sirdar here showed me careful sketches of the several provinces, reduced to a small scale, and much like those which our Geological Survey is making of the United States. As I looked over them he went on:

"Our surveys, at present, are chiefly devoted to the topography of the country and to data as to their resources and people. We have not done much in the way of mineral investigation. We know, however, that some of the provinces contain iron and copper. This is so of the Bahr-el-Ghazal, where the people use iron and steel implements made from the native ore. They have been mining copper there for a long time. It is generally believed that there is gold in the different parts of the Sudan, and we have issued a number of concessions to mining syndicates. They

have their men out prospecting, but so far no valuable deposits have been discovered."

"Have we much to hope for in the future trade of the Sudan?" I asked.

"Why not?" replied the sirdar. "We are using many things that the United States makes, and are glad to welcome American goods and American traders. American cottons are popular with the Abyssinians, and I do not see why they might not compete with those of Manchester in the Sudan. In our development we shall need railroad materials, and, if irrigation works are undertaken, as they will be, we shall require drills for artesian wells, engines, pumps, and other machinery of that nature. By our new road to the Red sea, ships from your country can land their goods at Port Sudan within a short railway haul of Khartum, and from here they can be sent almost to the heart of central Africa by river."

The conversation here took a personal turn by my asking His Excellency if he would not some day write a new book on the Sudan. He is, you know, one of the leading authorities on all matters connected with this part of the world. He wrote "Mahdism and the Egyptian Sudan" eighteen years ago; and a few years later published a work entitled "Ten Years' Captivity in the Mahdi's Camp." He also translated and edited Slatin Pasha's "Fire and Sword in the Sudan" in 1895, and since then his life has been a part of the history of the country and his experiences such that no man living knows all about it better than he. The sirdar replied:

"I may write another book some day. I have kept notes of things which I have observed and which have occurred from time to time, and the putting them together may give me occupation when I retire. At present my chief interest is in the development of the country, and I am too much occupied with that and with my duties here to find any time for literary work."—*The Evening Star.*

THE NEGRO AS RULER.

"WEST AFRICAN MAIL."

The advent of Mr. Arthur Barclay at a time when developments in West Africa are being watched with a keen eye to business is certainly an interesting event. It is interesting, also, in the ethnological sense, for Mr. Barclay is President of Liberia, a republic on the West African seaboard enjoying the unique distinction of being entirely under Negro administration. This little State, born of liberty and run on most approved democratic lines, is a lasting monument to the constructive ability of the Negroes—to the patient effort of the black man under conditions by no means favorable to success. The existence of the "Black Republic," as it is sometimes designated, is due to a private philanthropic body known early in the nineteenth century as the "American Colonization Society." This society, which derived its funds mainly from English sources, had for its object the freeing and repatriation of African slaves. In the circumstances it was meet that the ship to carry away the first batch of Negroes from the United States should have selected Sierra Leone as her destination, a colony then (1820) utilized by this country as a settlement for emancipated blacks. The movement was not attended with satisfactory results. The presence of the newcomers created friction, and they consequently "treked" to another part of West Africa. Here the climate proved a far worse enemy than the men who barred their way at Sierra Leone. But the society again came to the rescue, and in 1822 purchased for their benefit an island which we know today as Monrovia, the capital of the "Black Republic."

What these settlers suffered, and how heroically they rose superior to the difficulties they encountered on all sides, would form a record of which any European nation might feel proud. To begin with, they were set a gigantic task, for although originally not more than two hundred strong, their object was to found a settlement, and to rule in a land largely inhabited by natives innocent of civilization and resentful of interference with their liberty. The Americo-Liberians, as they styled themselves, never lost heart. From time to time their numbers were thinned by

the ravages of disease. Uninterruptedly for years they had to contend against the violent hostility of the aboriginal tribes. And, to crown all, these colored agents of civilization have ever experienced the hardships of financial embarrassment. In face of these seemingly insuperable obstacles they built up a State which is a model of enlightenment and well-directed rule. It is because they watched with jealousy the course of events as regards their Negro subjects elsewhere that they have withstood the temptation to enter into political treaties for financial gain. Freedom rather than quick progress is, indeed, their political creed. Nothing would be easier than for the Americo-Liberians to barter away their independence, now that the world knows something of the latent resources of West Africa. But they are moved by higher ambitions, and they are the more anxious to rise on their merits, because "the Negro need expect nothing but what he may achieve through his own heroic exertions and sacrifice."

Liberia is in the happy position of national solvency. It has but one external liability—a loan of £1,000,000 negotiated in London in 1871; and although for twenty-five years the revenue of the Republic was unequal to the payment of interest, it has since 1899 regularly discharged the obligation. To the services of this loan the government assigned the rubber duties, 50 per cent of the duties on powder and tobacco, and 33 per cent of the spirit duties. It is claimed also that the income from these sources is ample both as regards interest and amortization. The finances of the country have been vastly improved by the loan of £30,000 arranged with the Liberian Development Company, an English-formed venture having its scene of operations in Liberia. The company in turn is empowered to collect the customs duties and to deduct therefrom the interest on the capital advanced. In referring officially to this subject, President Barclay told the Senate and House of Representatives that, "in relation to the government of Liberia, the company in question is but an agent of the State. It has no powers but what we have granted, and politically they are of no importance. The government may pay the capital off as and when it chooses, while the company can claim no penalty so long as the interest is regularly met."

Unfortunately Liberia labors under many disabilities. It has no cable connection with the outer world and no railways. Subject to an annual subsidy of £2,000 per annum for ten years, the African Direct Telegraph Company offered to provide cable communication, but the government does not feel itself sufficiently strong to undertake the responsibility of payment. In the matter of railways, it was "always to be, but never blest." On two or three occasions the legislature granted concessions for railroads, which were not exercised. The native paths leading from the Americo-Liberian townships to the purely aboriginal settlements are also being improved. In so many words, Liberia is about to be opened up and its resources exploited. It is rich in rubber, may be a veritable treasure-house of mineral wealth, and is certainly prolific in most of the products indigenous to a tropical soil.

But the splendid efforts of its colored administrators to raise the Republic commercially and socially, the extreme jealousy with which its independence is guarded, and the stern refusal of its Executive to spend more than can be legitimately paid out of revenue, must elicit the ungrudging admiration of the white man.

In matters of domestic policy the Americo-Liberians are proceeding cautiously. They allocate over $40,000 annually to education, the bulk of which is absorbed by primary schools. They have established a Bureau of Agriculture, which is authorized to subscribe, in the shape of prize money, an amount equal to that raised by any local society formed to stimulate the productive energies of the citizens. Currency reform, or rather the introduction of currency principles, is another matter engaging the attention of the Liberian government.

And the latest development is the formation of a border police force for the preservation of tribal order. It is really difficult to believe that all this is the achievement of the Negro in power. The Americo-Liberians, or at least the members of the two legislative bodies at Monrovia, are educated and cultured members of society. There are men among them whose debating qualities and command of language would win praise in the Imperial Parliament. As for President Barclay, he is by profession a lawyer. His visit to this country is purely official, and ostensibly it is to settle boundary questions with Great Britain and France. But

it is not improbably connected with the raising of capital for railway and other projects calculated to give prominence to the "Black Republic," the developments before mentioned notwithstanding.—*The Lagos Weekly Record.*

PRESIDENT'S RETURN AND OVATION.

GREAT ENTHUSIASM DISPLAYED BY THE CONCOURSE OF ANXIOUS PEOPLE IN THE "WELCOME HOME."

On the 17th instant President Arthur Barclay and suite returned from Europe by the steamship *Mandingo.* His suite was Hon. F. E. R. Johnson, Secretary of State; Prof. T. McCants Stewart, Deputy Attorney-General, and Mr. J. F. Copeland.

On board the *Cecil Powney,* Col. G. M. Johnson, the Cabinet, and Judge A. J. Mathews went out to receive the President.

At the government wharf the President and suite were received by the city of Monrovia, Mayor Fuller delivering the address. The great concourse of people in procession, under escort of the militia of Monrovia, commanded by Capt. H. B. Hayes, and music by the "New Monrovia Band," moved forward to the Executive Mansion, where the mayor delivered the address of welcome in an able manner, followed by very appropriate addresses of welcome by Miss Irene F. Gant and Miss Emma Bryant, representing the ladies. The President responded to all the foregoing addresses in his usual statesmanlike manner.

On October 30 the Cabinet gave a reception for the President at the Executive Mansion, to which many prominent citizens of Montserrado and the other counties were invited. This afforded the President an opportunity to explain the result of his trip to Europe to the people whose anxiety was so great.

At 2.30 p. m., according to appointment, the spacious parlor of the Mansion was crowded with distinguished Liberians and foreign representatives, when Col. G. M. Johnson announced the approach of His Excellency the President and suite. The President and suite having been comfortably seated, Attorney-General C. D. B. King, master of ceremonies, introduced the occasion with brief and appropriate remarks, and introduced His Excel-

lency the President. All ears inclined forward to receive his words of gravity.

The President was at his best. Distinct, positive, and powerful were the words which fell from the lips of the President. The people saw that the President's words were not spoken merely to entertain, but for the good of his fellow-countrymen and the Republic of Liberia. He spoke of the number of attempts made to deliminate and settle the boundary between Liberia and France, all of which proved abortive, and it was this question that called him to France, because the French refused to treat with all but the President.

By the President's trip abroad an amicable settlement of the French-Liberian boundary was reached, subject to legislative approval, Liberia losing some territory and gaining some. An agreement was reached whereby the Mannah river will belong to both Liberia and Great Britain, whereas formerly it was entirely British. An arrangement whereby the native town of Fabundah (now belonging to both Great Britain and Liberia, by reason of the line of demarcation through it) will belong to one of the nations. An agreement whereby the Republic of Liberia and the Liberia Development Company has dissolved their relationship. (Government has taken over road and motors, bank, and the *Cecil Powney.*) The fifth result of the President's visit is that he discovered the absolute necessity of putting the judiciary on a more sound basis. The President insists upon having competent judges (in all that the word competent implies) to preside over the courts and to pay them such salaries as will enable them to live without going in debt. He especially emphasized his remarks relative to the judiciary.

Hon. F. E. R. Johnson, Secretary of State, was the next speaker. He corroborated the statement of the President concerning the arrangement made abroad, and gave a pleasant account of the manner the President and suite were received by the French government, and also the manner in which they were received by the court of Great Britain.

Prof. T. McCants Stewart, Deputy Attorney-General, then spoke, paying a glowing tribute to the patriotism and zeal of the President. He is convinced that what was accomplished could not have been by any other, and that at the crucial moment Am-

bassador White came to the assistance of Liberia, and the present arrangement was agreed to by France.

Justice Richardson then made a few remarks in defense of the judiciary. Hon. S. T. Prout, Postmaster-General, made a few timely remarks, and closed the speech-making and invited the guests to luncheon.—*African League.*

LIBERIAN WOMANHOOD.

BY MISS IRENE A. GANT.

"Not she with traitorous lips the Master stung;
Not she denied Him with a liar's tongue:
She, when apostles fled, had power to brave,—
Last at the cross and earliest at the grave."

Woman occupies and has always occupied an unique place amidst the affairs of nations. Dating from the garden, the divine purport of her creation has borne its significance throughout all the ages. Nations have arisen into prominence and then declined, but with them the records of their illustrious women. Let America honor the names of her heroines who stood so nobly by their brothers through both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, denying themselves the use of tea, sugar, and every dispensable article in order that they might be enabled to wind one more bandage around some bleeding soldier's wound or give some parched lips in the hospital another sip of wine. Let France laud the name and noble deeds of Joan of Arc, the heroine and deliverer of the French people. But Liberia will celebrate the name and patriotism of Mrs. Matilda Newport, the heroine and deliverer of the Liberian people. Ladies and gentlemen, this day is one which thrills our hearts with patriotic joy. The feat of Mrs. Newport is historical and not traditional. Eighty-five years ago, when our thirty-five settlers, sixteen of whom were emaciated and therefore useless, would have been completely exterminated, when safety had apparently shrunk from her duty towards those who needed her most, then it was that our noble Matilda, seeing the handful of men dispirited, observing the shattered conditions of affairs and the gloom which the menacing advance of the natives had cast upon the lives of the pioneers,

stepped forth, lighted the cannon with the coal from her pipe (though we would prefer that she had gotten her fire elsewhere), and the existence of the Republic became a permanency. Justly, then, does woman claim a sacred chapter in Liberian history.

Our foremothers, who at the incipiency of our country, accompanied our forefathers to this land where they planted for us and our posterity this Negro government—Happy Liberia—are on this occasion entitled to a generous meed of praise. Liberated from a land of slavery and oppression, and arriving upon these shores by means of American philanthropy, our foremothers, in huts either unroofed or unfloored, save with the branches of our grand old tree—the palm—rocked their newborn babes. They nurtured these little ones upon the indigenous staples of the country, the potato, cassava, eddo, palm nut, and when the rain sifted through their roofs upon their little ones, they gathered them closer to their bosoms. Within their humble homes they taught their little ones the Bible and the catechism, though without our aboriginal part sought to banish them from these shores. Amid the untold hardships of the colonial times our foremothers infused new strength into their husbands by their firmness and solaced their weary hours by their love. Praise to thee, noble mothers, who played so nobly thy role as fellow-sufferers with our fathers, and have endowed Liberia with a progeny fit to maintain and perpetuate this Negro government, which is destined to be a home for the Negro—yea, the doorway of Africa!

But the times have changed. Liberia is no longer considered an infantile republic; the time has arrived when she must occupy fully her place in the family of nations. Our fathers and mothers laid the foundations firmly; ours is the work of improvement. If our nation is to advance and attain such heights in civilization as marked the growth and development of other countries, salient responsibility rests upon our female populace. In proportion as the European and American women have contributed to the splendor and glory of those countries, so must the Liberian add her quota to our nation. We shall therefore address ourselves to the young women of Liberia and attempt to outline to them some of their paramount requisites.

First of all, we would have you consider the significance of the term "help-meet" as recorded in the Holy Bible. Much is embodied in this term. A helper should be well informed as to the duties she is expected to assist in, hence it is highly necessary that a sufficient study of the requirements of a help-meet be made, coupled with sufficient experience, before the weighty responsibility of the office of help-meet be assumed. Mrs. Newport, being impressed with this feeling of mutual interest, stood before the enemy, and with a recognition of her office, aided in the birth of this our now "glorious land of liberty."

Then after proper maturity shall have perhaps brought you to the inevitable of approaching holy wedlock, fellow young ladies, waste not the efforts of your life or destroy the possibilities of your future by giving your hand to mere men—male individuals receiving the common appellation men. The age wants able men, the age seeks for ready women; and wherever the able man exists he will seek the ready woman, and they are sure to find each other. But something better should inspire you in matrimonial undertaking. You should lose no time in seeing to it that your share in such partnership should be a pleasure rather than a burden. There should exist such a reciprocity of feeling as would make the felicity of home of prime importance. It is with pain that we recall in this connection severe criticisms upon our girl graduates made by some of our leading young men. They assert that our college girls, after leaving school, become so elated over their acquirements that their attentions become averted from the true sphere and mission of woman, and that after marriage they are unwilling to do little other than sitting on the piazza with a book or newspaper and calling Mary or John. We seize this opportunity to vindicate the cause of the college girl, to say that our idea of the loftiness of life is higher than that, and to sympathize with those unfortunate young men who are so misinformed in their apprehensions of the college girl. However, we cannot too strongly chide with our young men until we, the young women, shall prove ourselves capable of similar performances as characterized the women founders of our land. It is, then, when we shall side by side endure with fortitude all the hardships and add our quota in the solution of intricate issues—it is when

there shall be no despair which we shall not share conjointly with the men—it is only then shall we rise in the strength of our womanhood and take our place in the enjoyment of those prerogatives which are made inalienable through our mutual assistance.

Finally, young ladies, study to avail yourselves of all your opportunities. God and your country need you. Learn to sacrifice the trivial pleasures of society for that which is more lasting and elevating, and study to show yourselves worthy daughters of our honored mothers. Then the prevalent animadversions against us will soon exchange place with pleasanter conceptions.

"Go down, and you'll have many a kick;
Go up, and some will push you;
But win your way and praise will come
From those who try to crush you."

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, this thought, and we are through: We hail with delight the brilliant future for the Liberian woman to whom the present-day advantages come as a happy harbinger.

"Ah, there's many a bearer from the fountain of day,
That to reach us unclouded must pass on its way
Through the soul of a woman; and her's is wide ope
To the influence of heaven as the blue eyes of hope;
Yes, a great soul is hers,—one that dares go in
To the prison, the slave hut, the alleys of sin,
And to bring into each, or find there, some line
Of the never completely out-trampled divine."

Then arise, O Liberian womanhood, and behold the fields already white to harvest. "With God above our rights to prove," assiduously endeavor to labor within your sphere, that when the Great Arbiter of events shall gather His jewels, yours shall be eternal diadems as rewarded for your services rendered for the uplift of humanity. Onward, Upward, O Liberian Womanhood!—*Lagos Weekly Record.*

GOLD COAST COLONY.

INDUSTRIES AND PRODUCTS DISCUSSED BY THE GOVERNOR.

Sir John Rodger, K. C. M. G., governor of the British possessions on the west coast of Africa, has been spending a few days in Washington renewing his acquaintance with old friends, and particularly with Secretary Taft, whom he knew when he was governor of the Malay federation and the Secretary was governor of the Philippines. Sir John had an interview with the President, visited Mount Vernon, enjoyed much social distinction, and, what was most important, from his point of view, made an investigation of the colored schools of the District of Columbia, escorted by Assistant Superintendent Roscoe Conkling Bruce.

If you want to understand the information given in this letter, open your atlas and turn to the map of Africa, where you will find the town of Akkra, the capital of the Gold Coast colony, on the gulf of Guinea. It is there that Sir John Rodger makes his headquarters. He lives in an ancient castle, in the basement of which are dungeons or barracoons, as they are called, in which slaves that had been sent down from the interior were kept until they were shipped to America. The castle was built by the Danes in the seventeenth century. It was occupied by the Dutch, who controlled that coast through the eighteenth century. The English obtained control in the nineteenth century, and in 1896 subdued the native king of Ashanti, whose name is Prempele, and sent him into exile to the island of Seychelle, in the Indian ocean, north of Madagascar, on the east coast of Africa.

There was a rebellion in 1901 among the natives, who fought hard to restore the authority of their king, but were conquered, and have now settled down and are making industrious, progressive, valuable citizens. Sir John says that the Ashantis were the only compact, well-organized tribe on that coast. They had a million and a half of population, all good fighting men, and enslaved the neighboring tribes for hundreds of years. They are a fine race, men of intelligence, courage, and other manly qualities, and, like all good fighters, they have been successful in other things. They are taking hold of civilized ideas now, and are

making rapid progress. They have always been a dominant people and have compelled others to work for them, but at last they are working for themselves.

"There is a variety of races on the west coast of Africa," continued Sir John Rodger. "The population are not all Negroes, by any means. A large part of the continent is held by the Fulanes, or Fulahs, a Semitic race, who probably came down from Asia. They are scattered through the Sudan and very generally throughout the interior, and, being industrious, warlike, and intelligent, dominate the other less intelligent and less enterprising tribes. They have a national literature written in Arabic characters, their language is a dialect of the Arabic, and in religion they are Mohammedans.

"The Hausas are another race, quite different from the Negroes, and are of Coptic descent. They also are Mohammedans, are semi-civilized, and are enterprising traders. In the middle ages they formed a kingdom in Central Africa, which subsequently broke up into small states. Their language is simple and regular in structure, and they have a literature of considerable interest. They control a large extent of country, and are the best soldiers in Africa."

"Is the slave trade extinct?" I asked.

"Practically so, as far as the coast is concerned, but there is more or less going on in the interior, which we cannot control and about which we know very little. It does not touch the civilized settlements, and is secretly conducted by caravans through the interior.

"Africa has been very generally allotted among the European nations. The French, Germans, Portuguese, Italians, Spanish, and Belgians have their share. France has more than any other nation, and has done extremely good work in colonizing West Africa. M. Roume, the governor-general, is a great administrator. He has his headquarters at Dakar, in Senegambia, and rules an empire south of the Desert of Sahara and at intervals down the coast—a larger territory perhaps than belongs to any other government. The French colonies in West Africa are making remarkable progress. The British have Gambia, Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast, Lagos, South and North Nigeria, and other colonies. The Germans have Togoland, Kamerun, and

other colonies still farther south. The Portuguese have some important places, while the Belgians have the Kongo.

"I am aware that the success of the Belgian administration in the Kongo is a subject of dispute," said Sir John Rodger, "but I hope that the entire territory of the Kongo valley may come under the direct control of Belgium. I am sure it will be to the advantage of all concerned and to the welfare of the natives.

"No, I will not say that there has never been a fair and impartial book written on the Kongo question. I will not go so far as that, but I am positive that I have never seen one.

"Liberia is a very interesting country, founded, as you know, by emancipated slaves from the United States, and the people there are getting on very well. A very important enterprise in the way of development of the forests, mines, and agricultural resources has been undertaken by a syndicate, of which Sir Harry Johnson, formerly governor of British East Africa, is the chairman. He is a man of great energy and capacity and has been accustomed to that sort of work in other parts of the continent. The plans of the syndicate are made with due regard to the welfare of the natives, which, of course, is the principal thing. I have never met President Barclay, of Liberia, but have heard him highly spoken of by those who know him. He is a full-blooded Negro of intelligence and ability, and I think he is giving a satisfactory administration. There is a future for Liberia, with the assistance of the development company, and the natives ought to do well, provided they will take an industrious advantage of their opportunities.

"No, there is not the slightest inducement for the colored people of America to return to Africa. It would be of no advantage to them further than to gratify their sentiment, and they would die of disease. They could not stand the climate. The constitution of the American Negro is not the same as that of the African. It has been changed by his environment. There is nothing over there an American Negro could do unless he could bring capital with him. There is a scarcity of money, but an abundance of labor.

"I cannot give you the entire white population of the west coast of Africa," said Sir John Rodger, in reply to an inquiry, "but you can get the figures from the government reports. I can

only say that there are about 1,500 whites under my jurisdiction on the Gold Coast, which stretches for 335 miles along the gulf of Guinea, and I presume the proportion is the same in the other colonies. The whites carry on the commerce, supervise the plantations and the mines, and administer the government. They live comfortably by adapting themselves to the conditions of the climate, but are not so well lodged as in India or the Straits Settlements, for the reason that they do not remain so long. Everybody who goes to West Africa expects to stay only a little while. Two years is about the limit that a man can stand it. I was out fourteen months the first time, then five months, and then thirteen months, which is about as long as it is safe for a white man to stay. We have frequent communication with Europe. There are four lines of steamers—English, French, German, and Portuguese."

"What have the English done for the country?" I asked.

"Well, we have done a good deal for Ashanti and the Gold Coast, as you may judge by the fact that our expenditures in 1905 were $3,080,590, and in 1903 they were $3,144,430—all for internal improvements, schools, and for the promotion of agriculture and mining. The estimated expenditures for 1908, according to the budget, will be $3,561,585. I am over here for the purpose of investigating your systems of education among the colored people, particularly industrial education, and your methods of sanitation against tropical diseases that may be of benefit to our people. I am going to Hampton to see the school there, and I hope to get to Tuskegee, and from there will go to Cuba and Panama. That is the main object of my visit.

"We are giving our people industrial schools. We are teaching them how to take better care of themselves. The sanitary conditions of all the principal centers of population have been improved, but much still remains to be done in the way of drainage, water supply, and the more effective destruction of mosquitoes. We have hospitals, an insane asylum, and a medical research institute. We have elementary schools, and are teaching agriculture and the trades. We think that is the best way of developing the Negroes. They have a certain degree of mechanical skill and ingenuity, and some of them show remarkable taste," and Sir John showed me a ring and a pin made in gold by a native jeweler which were quite artistic.

"While we are just beginning and have only raw material to deal with, the people are showing a desire to improve themselves, and they realize the advantages of improvement. The real object of our system of education is to train the character, to instill in the minds of the Negroes the principles of honesty, truth, industry, and economy. We make the study of hygiene compulsory, because the natives are very reckless concerning their health. We begin with the children, and through them reach the parents, and I am sure that the next generation will show the results of our efforts.

"Several natives have been educated in Europe. We have several native doctors and ministers of ability. Two members of the council are natives, and both are very good men. One of them, a full-blooded Negro, is a barrister, educated in England; the other, who has a little white blood in his veins, is a man of high character and is very much trusted by his race.

"We have built 168 miles of railway and are constructing another line of twenty miles, while a third line of thirty-five miles, to reach the cocoa-planting districts of the interior, is proposed. We are building a harbor at Akkra, and are preparing to construct a water system for that city. We have built many miles of good cart roads into the interior for the benefit of the planters, in order that they may bring their crops to the coast. Our exports last year were nearly $10,000,000 and our imports were considerably more than that. They are increasing rapidly. Cocoa plantations are being developed and rubber is now cultivated in various parts of Ashanti. About 64,000 rubber trees were distributed among the natives last year by our agricultural department. The open plains are well suited for stock raising and in the forests adjoining Ashanti two different kinds of rubber have been discovered, a tree and a vine, which will be a source of considerable wealth. Cotton is successfully cultivated for local use, and excellent cloths are being woven. A gin has been erected by the British Cotton Growing Association, and while the cultivation of cotton will not be a large industry, because cocoa and the gold mines will pay better, we shall grow enough for our own use.

"Africa will ultimately be a large producer of cotton. It will be felt in the markets within the next twenty or twenty-five

years. In Nigeria there is a large development under the direction of the British Cotton Growers' Association. Africa has a very large territory suitable for cotton, a good soil, plenty of cheap labor, and the climate is not severe for natives. They can work under the sun all right, but white men are useful only as supervisors.

"Cocoa is the great crop, and last year the plantations, which now extend across the borders of Ashanti, produced for export more than 20,000,000 pounds. The government is promoting the industry in every way, and an association has recently been formed among the planters for co-operation. Cocoa growing dates back only fifteen years, and the plant, which is not native to the country, was introduced by the government. The plantations all belong to natives, who are working them on a large scale. There is not a single European in the business. The government agricultural stations are now encouraging the cultivation of pineapples, bananas, and other tropical fruits. Provision has been made for three native traveling instructors to teach these industries. Two of them were trained in the West Indies.

"There is a large trade in mahogany, all done by the natives upon capital furnished by Europeans, and we have introduced regulations to protect the forests and to prevent the cutting of immature trees.

"The natives of West Africa are better workmen than the Malays, according to my experience. The Malays will not work at all. The development of the resources of the Malay federation is due entirely to Chinese labor.

"The contrast between the African and the Malays in this respect is illustrated in the gold mines of Africa and in the tin mines of the Malay federation. In the latter, all the labor is done by the Chinese; in the former by native Negroes, who do excellent work at low wages. The minimum is about 30 cents a day in your money. The gold mines are owned by British companies, which have invested large sums of money in machinery. Last year they took out about five million dollars' worth of gold, which was an increase of nearly two million dollars over 1905. Although gold mining is the most profitable industry at present,

the future prosperity of West Africa, in my opinion, depends upon its agricultural development.

"We have many missionaries, but no Americans. They are mostly French Roman Catholics, Swiss Protestants, and English Wesleyans. In many ways they have done good work, particularly in education and medical relief, and we encourage them all we can. The government subsidizes their schools."—*Sunday Star.*

NEGRO EDUCATION IN THE SOUTH.

HUGHES, WASHINGTON, AND WATTERSON SPEAK.

Ex-Mayor Low Tells of Needs of Tuskegee at Armstrong Association Meeting at Carnegie Hall—Governor Hughes Strikes Keynote in "No Color Line in Good Work"—Bishop Grant Speaks Eloquently.

LETTER FROM THE HON. JAMES BRYCE.

BRITISH EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, *January* 14, 1908.

DEAR MR. PRINCIPAL: To my sincere regret, it is not possible for me to come to New York on the 17th to speak at your meeting.

Most gladly would I have extended the warm sympathy which I feel for the aims and the work of Tuskegee Institute.

There are, it seems to me, two things which most need to be done for the colored race. One is to provide a good college education for those of superior talents who are to be its physicians, its clergymen, and (perhaps most of all) its teachers. The other is to do for the bulk of the race by systematic training that which many centuries of practice have done for the whites, viz., make the brain and the fingers apt for the various forms of labor, turn out workmen who are able to earn their living by their handicraft, men with habits of steady application, men who can find pleasure in the exercise of skill. This is an undertaking of supreme importance, affecting not only the welfare of the colored race itself, but also the interests of the States which they inhabit. It is the surest way along which the race can make solid and enduring progress. For the sake of it, one would

like to see a dozen Tuskegees established in the South, following the lines which your Tuskegee has traced.

With best wishes for a successful meeting, I am,

Faithfully yours,

JAMES BRYCE.

LETTER FROM CARDINAL GIBBONS.

CARDINAL'S RESIDENCE, 406 N. CHARLES ST.,
BALTIMORE, MD., *January* 3, 1908.

Mr. Booker T. Washington.

DEAR SIR: Your letter of December 27 was duly received. While it would give me pleasure to gratify your wish by attending the meeting of January 17—and I should be pleased to meet Governor Hughes and the Hon. Mr. Low on that occasion—I regret to say that my other engagements at that time will not allow me to accept your kind invitation.

I beg, however, to express the hope that the proposed meeting will be eminently successful, and that it will serve to promote the noble cause in which you are engaged.

May you reap during the year just begun a generous harvest in successful accomplishment as a reward for your zealous efforts in behalf of the people of your race.

Faithfully yours,

JAMES CARDINAL GIBBONS.

LETTER FROM W. J. NORTHEN.

ATLANTA, GA., *January* 4, 1908.

Mr. GEORGE MCANENY,
Vice-President, City Club, New York, N. Y.

MY DEAR SIR: Your wire, inviting me to be present at Carnegie Hall and speak with Governor Hughes, the 17th inst., as the guest of the Armstrong Association, was duly received. I promptly replied that recent severe illness would make it impossible for me to accept your invitation, and I expressed, at the same time, my hearty sympathy with the purposes of the occasion.

I understand that the meeting is to be held in the interest of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, and I am writing

now more strongly to emphasize my interest in the occasion you are making, and, further, to assure you that nothing short of positive demands prevented my participation in the exercises contemplated.

For several years I have been familiar with the commendable work done by Dr. Washington at Tuskegee, and I endorse, without reserve, the wise and helpful service he is rendering to the people of his race, and, indirectly, to all the people of the South. He is building every student that comes under his management and direction into a structural economic factor for the development of the resources of this section, while he is successfully bringing all of them to fitness for the abundant opportunities that await them here.

You cannot do too much in the way of favor and help for this splendid enterprise.

Yours very truly,

W. J. Northen.

EXTRACTS FROM MR. LOW'S ADDRESS.

Ladies and Gentlemen: As President of the Board of Trustees of the Tuskegee Institute, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this meeting. Your presence is a help in many ways. I am glad also to express the thanks of the Institute to the eminent men who are here tonight to speak in its behalf. No doubt you also will add your thanks to ours, and beyond is the inarticulate multitude who will find inspiration and courage from their words. We owe a great debt of gratitude also to the Armstrong Association of this city, under whose beneficent auspices this meeting is held. In the spirit of the shining name it bears like a frontlet upon its brow, the Armstrong Association had only to learn of Tuskegee's need to spring to its help. "Beggars that we are, we are even poor in thanks, but we thank them." And last, but not least, we thank these singers from Hampton who have come here to sing for Tuskegee some of the old plantation songs. Hampton has been to Tuskegee a generous mother, and, despite her own need, which at this time is very great, her voice is always raised in behalf of the school founded and developed by her great graduate, Booker Washington. I am glad to be able also to say that Tuskegee has been

and is a loyal daughter, and the eloquent voice of Dr. Washington is heard on behalf of Hampton whenever it is in his power to say an effective word for his Alma Mater.

But this is Tuskegee's night, and we are especially to consider Tuskegee's needs. Like every institution in the land, it has felt the pressure of these hard times; and it must needs ask the generous, if they can, to be more generous still. Tuskegee's fiscal year begins on the 1st of June. For the seven months ending December 31, 1907, its receipts from gifts have fallen off $30,000. As nearly as can be estimated at this time, the Institute, in order not to go behind on its current expenses, must raise between January 1 and May 31 at least $70,000. This includes of course the deficiency caused by the falling off of $30,000 in the receipts of last autumn. I do not weary you with the other figures, for this is the salient fact. It is proper that you should know that by great care the institution has saved $1,000 a month upon its budget, and if this saving can be kept up to the end of the year the sum needed will be a little less large. In other words, Dr. Washington and his associates are sparing no effort to curtail outlay wherever it can be done without too great disadvantage to the school.

When I visited Tuskegee a year ago last December I was delighted to find that the accounts of the school were a model for completeness and clearness. Since then an auditor appointed by the State of Alabama has made an official report to the Governor of Alabama to the same effect. This system was established by Mr. Daniel C. Smith, a trained accountant of this city, but it is carried on, under his oversight, by officers of the Institute, who, like all the other officers, are colored men. It is this careful bookkeeping, combined with the preparation in advance of an itemized budget of expenses for the year, that has made it possible to cut down expenses intelligently since the storm fell upon the country a few months ago.

It is not the business of the chairman to detain the meeting long from the pleasure of listening to the speakers you have come to hear. I wish only to add that, after my visit to Tuskegee, I feel sure that the Tuskegee Institute is the most notable achievement to be placed to the credit of the Negro race. The campus contains more than 70 buildings; the population in the

school and incident to its care, numbers between two and three thousand, all of whom are colored people. Unlike Hampton, where the principal and teachers are white, at Tuskegee the principal and the teachers and the officers are colored. In a word, it is a Negro enterprise. No one can visit it without being struck by the note of efficiency in its management, and by the air of modesty and self-respect that marks the bearing of officers and pupils alike. The Institute itself is the complete demonstration of the capacity of this race to do, and to do well, things that are worth while. The ancients used to say, "The gods help those who help themselves." Men who would be Godlike still do the same. I have now great pleasure in presenting Governor Hughes.

POINTS MADE BY GOVERNOR HUGHES.

Governor Hughes in his speech laid down the fundamental principle that in order to maintain democratic ideals it was necessary to open the door of opportunity to all classes of citizens. He said in part:

"We cannot afford to lose sight of our fundamental objects, the objects of every good citizen, the objects alike of enlightened self-interest, of patriotism, of broad philanthropy. They are, first, that every man shall be provided with opportunity and stimulus to make the most of himself. Further, that every one shall take such wholesome interest in the welfare of his fellows that usefulness and service shall be the standards of our activities, without which talent and skill are inevitably prostituted to ignoble and corrupt purposes. And still further, that our laws and our administration of laws shall provide equality of civil rights, shall protect the gains of honest effort, and shall make the field of our labors a fair field where talent and industry shall have a chance on their merits (Applause), a fair field, free from every form of preventable oppression.

"Fellow-citizens, the black man is entitled to his chance. Whatever problem there may be connected with the progress of the black man, as has well been said, it is not comparable with the problem involved in his stagnation or retrogradation. And, therefore, it is that in order to maintain our democratic ideals we must have the door of opportunity opened wide to all our

citizens. We cannot maintain these ideals as to one set of our people and ignore them as to others. A special characteristic of the problems of the progress in these last years is the provision that is made for special preparation for the varied activities of life.

"In this provision that is made for special preparation, for needed particular training, the Negro must have a generous share. He must have a share that is delimited in recognition of the disadvantages under which he has labored and the serious handicaps of the past. He must be taught how to make the most of himself, and to have all the advantage of that stimulus which the white man feels who sees open to him the varied rewards of intelligent effort.

"Now, my friends, we are thinking of industry, and of preparation for work along special lines according to temperament and aptitude, not simply with regard to productive efficiency, and to some contemplated addition to the sum of our national energy. Economic considerations are well enough. But this country is more than a wealth-producing machine. The people of this country are more than parts of a mechanism designed to produce products for exchange. This is a country of free men, with the aspirations and the dignity of manhood, and nothing in the long run will be accomplished to add to the permanent wealth and prosperity of the nation save as we make possible that wholesome self-respect and sense of personal honor which underlies all our institutions and our prosperity."

COLONEL WATTERSON'S SPEECH.

Many years ago, within the circle of a bay window overlooking one of the great avenues of the city of Washington, I was dining with a party of friends. We had been discussing the race question, when, as if to punctuate our discourse, two men across the way—a black man and a white man—entered upon an altercation which came to blows. The police were conveniently—I might say characteristically—absent. A ring was formed, and, in true Marquis of Queensbury style, the race war upon a small but tangible scale was then and there fought out. Taking this to illustrate the interrupted conversation, one among our group asked, apparently confident of the reply, "Which are we for, the

Nigger or the Irishman?" It was an eminent statesman of the South who answered, "Well, before I decide that I should like to know which has the right of it."

My own attitude toward the racial question has always grounded itself in the same principle. I want nothing for myself, or for my children, which I am not ready to give to my colored neighbor and his children. I live in a region peopled by many blacks, good, orderly, hard-working folks. They know me, and they know that when I declare this I mean it.

I am, in my own home, served by black people, and very well served, having had no occasion to change a serving man or woman in many years. We go away, and sometimes are absent for months, returning to find the place as we left it. If they were actual members of the family they could not be more solicitous for our welfare.

Unfortunately, there are bad white men as there are bad black men, there are foolish black men as there are foolish white men, and they constitute the real menace and danger.

I am bound to tell you, after forty years of experience and observation and reflection, that I think we began wrong. We put the cart before the horse. Four millions of poor black people, with some centuries of abject slavery and many ages of barbaric night behind them, were not equal to using the freedom that came to them so suddenly, and especially the ballot, with prudence or intelligence. How could they? I don't blame them in the least. On the contrary, I sometimes wonder at their self-restraint.

RACE QUESTION A MYSTERY.

The race question is a mystery. For the matter of that, life is a mystery. Whence we came, whither we are going, we know not. The Ethiopian is thought to be especially imitative. All of us are more or less imitative—particularly the ultra-smart set of high society, which here on the seaboard imitates the little it knows about the European nobility, and in the interior whatever it can find out about the smart set of the seaboard. It is an unfortunate characteristic of imitation to take for its examples rather the bad than the good of whatever attracts its admiration or its envy.

Every shoemaker to his last, the saying hath it, and that say I; each mother's son of us to his vocation, whatever it be. Men in their places are the men who stand. Neither Seth Low, nor Mr. Rogers, not even Booker Washington or Mark Twain, can make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. No more can they make a musician or a poet or a lawyer or a doctor out of material that was intended for blacksmithing, dray-driving, and plowing. Happily, they don't try.

I stand here tonight to declare that the world has never witnessed such progress from darkness to light as that which we see in those districts of the South where the Negro has had a decent opportunity for self-improvement.

Let the Negro go to any alien community and try to get employment. Barred on every hand; plenty of sentiment, but no work. There are regions North, East, and West which never knew slavery and were a unit for the Union, where the Negro is refused admittance. He is told to move on. He is what the President described the other day as "an undesirable citizen." Turn Southward; plenty both of work and wages for all who bring tranquil minds and willing hands.

He is a bad white man who will not help his neighbor black man when that neighbor black man shows the spirit to help himself. He is a bad black man who cherishes hatred in his heart against the white man because he is a white man. He is a foolish black man who thinks because the mirage of social equality, which would prove a curse rather than a blessing, is denied him, that the white man hates him. Social questions the world over create their own laws and settle themselves. They cannot be forced. It is idle anywhere for anybody to contest or quarrel with them. No man should wish to go where he is not wanted; true, self-respecting men dismiss the very thought of it, going their own way, hoeing their own row, and giving praise to God that their happiness is within themselves and beyond the reach of any man, be he white or black, king or vassal!

And now, my friends, I have said my say. I beg you to go hence this night believing these imperfect thoughts and poor words, the honest emanations of one who has journeyed much, and far and wide in this great land of ours. I was born and grew up in the national capital, contemporary with the vexed

slavery agitation. I saw the Union severed and made whole again. Since then I have been in every State and Territory of that Union, and I have yet to come away from one of them, North, South, East, or West, where I had not found something to make me proud of my country.

Bishop Abraham Grant started off calmly, but in a few moments grew impassioned and exclaimed that he believed there should be a Tuskegee Institute in every State in the Union, with Booker T. Washington in general charge. He advocated an appropriation for Negroes, as for the Indians, and said that if "Ben" Tillman would introduce such a bill all his previous sins would be forgiven.

The Bishop related his experience in the Civil War. He said: "I fought on the Confederate side. I was invited by my master to go to war with him. He was to fight; I was to cook. He had a horse; I had a mule. When the first battle began, the mule took a notion to go home. When he arrived at home next morning, I was with him."

DR. WASHINGTON TELLS OF WORK.

Booker T. Washington gave figures to show what wonderful strides the Negro had made since he gained his freedom. The Negro race in America now number, he said, nearly 10,000,000, and was rapidly growing, and the majority of them will remain in the South. Continuing, he said:

These millions of my race can become useless or useful. They can be made to help or to hinder. They can be made to become criminals or law-abiding citizens. They can be made potent factors in the intelligence of our country or they can become a load of ignorance, dragging down our civilization. What shall it be? I do not ask you to undertake the impossible or impracticable. It has been clearly demonstrated that education makes the Negro less criminal, that it makes him less thriftless, that it makes him more industrious, that it makes him more helpful in the maintenance of his duty as a citizen in the community in which he lives. It has been demonstrated that in proportion as the Negro is educated he becomes more useful as a producer; that he secures a home; that he becomes a taxpayer.

The Negro already pays taxes in America, after only a few years of freedom and opportunity, upon more than $354,000,000 worth of property. He started in poverty a little more than forty years ago. He now owns and occupies over 500,000 homes and farms. He owns and controls, mainly in the Southern States, 33 banks. He now has 16,000 ministers, 24,000 churches, and $27,000,000 worth of church property.

On the basis of school population each child in the Northern States had spent upon him last year for his education for teaching purposes about $5. On the basis of school population each Negro child in the South had spent upon him for teaching purposes about 50 cents. At this rate it is impossible to educate the children of 10,000,000 of people sufficiently to make them useful and effective citizens. I do not complain or criticise the South, but I simply state facts. The South out of its poverty has done well, and it deserves credit for what it has done.

What is the one great need of the race today? In my opinion it is strong, unselfish, intelligent leaders and workers, and by that I mean teachers such as we are trying to send out from Tuskegee, from Hampton, from Fisk, from Talladega, and a score of other educational centers in the South.

Some people are fond of passing judgment upon the progress of the race based upon their observation of that class of Negroes who are found in the police court. It is always unsafe and unfair to depend upon the police court to get one's impressions of the progress and standing of any race of people. In this respect I ask the American people to judge my race as other races are judged—that is, by their best representatives, and not by their worst representatives.

I wish you to understand that there is a class of Southern white people which is growing in numbers and in influence, a class of educated, cultured, brave white people in the South, who are just as much interested in the permanent welfare and progress of the Negro race as any similar class to be found in the North or elsewhere, and it is largely through the co-operation of the intelligent Negroes with this class of Southern white people that the progress which has been made has been possible. Twenty years ago in one year we have over 200 cases of lynchings in the Southern States. During the last 12 months I am quite sure

that there have been only 56 such cases. In the majority of cases the influence back of the crimes which provoke lynchings and the lynchings themselves has been bad whiskey in the stomachs and in the brains of bad white people and bad black people.

I may be in doubt concerning some elements in our Southern situation, but of one thing I feel absolutely sure, and that is that ignorance and racial prejudice never proved a settlement for any problem on earth. So long as we can go on patiently, quietly, persistently, giving all the people more skill, increased habits of industry, more intelligence and a higher idea of morality and religion, we can be absolutely sure that we are traveling a safe and sure road.—*The New York Age.*

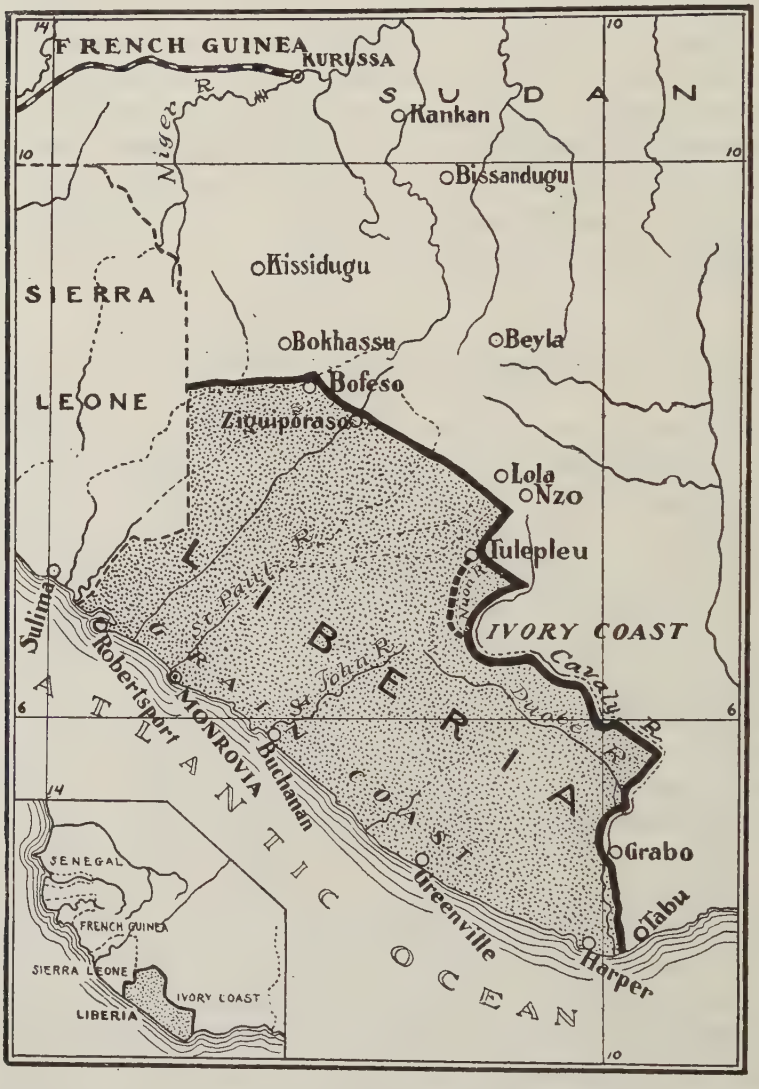
LIBERIA'S NEW BOUNDARY.

This sketch map of the boundary between Liberia and the French possessions in West Africa is based upon a map in *A Travers le Monde* (*Le Tour du Monde,* No. 45, 1907). The agreement concerning the frontier was reached during the recent visit of President Barclay, of Liberia, to Paris:

The agreement is practically that suggested by France two years ago according to the reference in Sir Harry Johnston's Liberia (Vol. 1, p. 311). It involves the surrender by Liberia of territory to the north of the Cavally river, an area of about 2,000 square miles in the extreme upper basins of the St. Paul and Lofa rivers. On the other hand, it gives Liberia a tolerably well-defined boundary from a geographical standpoint, in place of the previous, purely conventional boundary.

A short stretch of the eastern frontier is still involved in doubt, because of the insufficiency of our geographical knowledge. The agreement stipulates that the boundary shall follow the course of the Nuon river to its confluence with the Cavally, and then follow that river to the sea. It is not certainly known, however, whether the Nuon is really a tributary of the Cavally; therefore it is provided that if it is found that the Nuon does not unite with the Cavally the line shall run southeast from Tulepleu to the upper Cavally, leaving the Nuon to the west and giving Liberia a little more territory.

Twenty-five years ago this month a treaty was made between France and Liberia fixing the boundary between their possessions. It failed of effect because the geographical notions on which it was based were shown to be worthless.



While Liberia loses territory heretofore claimed in the northeast and in the upper basins of the St. Paul and Lofa rivers, her territory in the southeast widens enough to make up the loss in the north.—*Bulletin of the American Geographical Society.*

BRILLIANT RECEPTION TO PRESIDENT BARCLAY.

ADDRESSES BY THE PRESIDENT AND OTHERS.

The parlors of the Executive Mansion presented a brilliant scene when, at about three o'clock on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 30, President Barclay arose to make an address. The Mansion was bedecked with flags and bunting.

Invitations from the Cabinet brought together representatives of the foreign powers, prominent officials, ladies who lead in the social life of Monrovia, and citizens high in commercial and business circles to greet the President and his suite, and to congratulate them upon the result of their recent mission to London and Paris.

Introductory remarks on behalf of the Cabinet were made by Attorney-General King, and Postmaster-General Prout then took the chair. Without further formality, President Barclay arose, and in a quiet yet earnest and forcible manner made a statement of his work, observations, and experiences while abroad. Among other things, he said:

"It has been realized for several years that it was necessary to have a definite delimitation of our northeastern frontier. From lack of definite boundary lines there has been considerable misunderstanding between the French Government and the Government of Liberia. An agreement for marking out our frontier boundary was entered into in 1892, but it was found to furnish no satisfactory basis for delimitation, as many of the main features of this agreement were based upon a lack of knowledge of both the geography and topography of our northeastern hinterland, such as the source and affluences of its rivers and the location of hills and towns. Since then the government has made repeated efforts to enter into a more definite agreement with France, sending commissioners to Paris in 1900, appointing Dr. Blyden as Minister to France in 1904, and working through other representatives, but it seemed impossible to get any results. Certain complications on our frontiers created unpleasant and serious relations between both the French and English governments and ourselves, and it was committed to me that my presence at the capital of these governments might have

the effect of putting an end to a situation which threatened the integrity and independence of Liberia." Under the circumstances, the President said, he decided to visit London and Paris, and did so, attended by the Secretary of State, Hon. F. E. R. Johnson, and by Prof. T. McCants Stewart, as Deputy Attorney-General.

The President said that his reception in Paris was very gratifying. M. Pinchon, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, expressed both on the President's visit to him and on his subsequent visit to the President's hotel the deepest friendly interest of the French government in the prosperity of Liberia, and in order to facilitate his movements, the President said that the Minister arranged a conference for the day after the President's arrival in Paris. "We conferred together," our Chief Magistrate continued to say, "with representatives of the Foreign and Colonial Offices, M. Binger taking the leading part, for about a week, and embodied our conclusions in a treaty, which will be made public, if ratified by the legislative departments of our respective governments. Throughout the conferences the French government manifested a spirit of candor and friendliness. My reception by M. Falliers, President of France, at the Elysee Palace, and his subsequent call upon me at my hotel, gave occasion for unreserved expressions of friendship and good-will. Since my return to Liberia I have been advised by our Charge d'Affaires that the French government has communicated with its military force on our frontier, and has directed them to preserve the most friendly relations toward our government and to make no further advances into our territory.

"After completing our work in Paris," President Barclay continued, "I took up in London certain matters in dispute between ourselves and Great Britain. They relate to the navigation of the Manna river and to certain boundary rights at Kanre-Lahun, and I laid the basis for a settlement of these matters."

Pausing for a moment, the President then quietly said that the British government evinced considerable interest in our domestic affairs. "Criticism was made, especially of our complaint being made that all of our judges are not trained men; and my attention was called to several complaints on file in the Foreign Office. Some reference was made to the extra territorial courts,

and I was asked to exercise great care in the matter of the administration of justice, as the British people would stand almost any state evil except an ignorant or corrupt judiciary. And so if you see me removing judges, or making other changes in the judiciary you may depend upon it that I am simply trying to put ourselves in line with the best sentiments and standards of the outside world."

The President then referred to the organization of a frontier force under European leaders for the present. He said that we have not the available men to command this service at the present time, and he hoped that the legislature will agree with him. Everywhere in Europe he declared the fact that this is a constitutional government; and he agreed to nothing without adding the provision that the same must have the sanction of the legislature. He said always that he should lay these matters before the Cabinet, and thereafter before the legislature. In earnest tones he expressed the hope that there would be perfect accord upon all these matters, as it was his belief that if we do not put ourselves in touch with the conditions prevailing generally in other civilized governments it would be a question of time only when we would be face to face with a very serious situation, which situation we might not be able to control. The President said that he had conferences with Sir Charles Harding, permanent Under Secretary of the British Foreign Office, and with A. W. Clarke, Esq., of the same office; also with Mr. Anthrobus, of the Colonial Office, and he came away feeling that the British government has no designs whatever on Liberia, but, on the contrary, has for it the deepest friendly feeling, and that we have nothing to fear if we put our domestic matters in satisfactory shape.

The President then said that while his mission abroad was primarily to dispose of these frontier matters, yet while in London he looked into the management of our £100,000 loan by the Liberian Development Company, and, not being satisfied with the situation, he put an end to the company's connection with the government, and took over the balance remaining from the loan, and which is now on deposit with the banking firm of Erlangers & Co., as well as the steamboat, automobiles, road improvements, and other property. He said that the government

would hereafter carry out the road and bank schemes, and that the Development Company would operate under its charter, as in the case of any other private corporation within the Republic. The President expressed the gratification at the fact that Liberia is meeting all of her financial obligations abroad, and that her standing is good, and is steadily improving.

Addresses were made supporting the President and the views he had expressed by Hon. F. E. R. Johnson, Secretary of State, and Deputy Attorney-General T. McCants Stewart. Hon. R. B. Richardson also made a brief address referring to the judiciary.

Postmaster-General Prout then made some happy remarks inviting the company to enjoy the bountiful luncheon which had been prepared by a committee of ladies. While at luncheon the French Consul read a cablegram from his government expressing its friendship, and stating that its frontier military force had been directed to maintain a peaceable attitude to our government. President Barclay replied that while he was not surprised, yet he was pleased at this unexpected confirmation of the views which he had expressed in the course of his address.

During the luncheon delightful music was rendered by the Youths' Orchestral Band, and in the evening a ball was enjoyed by the young people of the city.—*The African Agricultural World.*

PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S ADDRESS AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY.

Judge Barnard, ladies and gentlemen, and especially you, graduates and under-graduates of this institution of learning:

I am glad to have the chance to come before you and say a word of greeting and of Godspeed today. This day of your installation, Mr. President, commemorates the fortieth anniversary of the founding of this institution. There has been much of sorrow and disappointment that have come to men not only of the colored race but of all races during that forty years; and sometimes in looking back we fail to realize all the progress that has been made.

Let me call attention to just two facts. During these forty years, practically during the time that has elapsed since the emancipation proclamation, the colored citizens of the United

States have accumulated property until now they have, all told, some three hundred and fifty million dollars' worth of taxable property in this country. During the same forty years they have been making for themselves homes until now there are five hundred thousand homes owned and occupied by the colored citizens of our country. When a man and woman grow to own and occupy their own home, it is proof positive that they have made long strides forward along the path of good citizenship. The material basis is not everything, but it is an indispensable prerequisite to moving upward in the life of decent citizenship; and the colored man, when he acquires property, acquires a home, has taken that indispensable first step, and a long, long step. Upon that material basis must be built the structure of the higher life, and this institution has been devoted throughout its career to turning out men and women who should be teachers and helpers of their own people toward this higher life. You have close upon three thousand graduates; I think twenty-seven hundred is the exact number. Last year you had in all one thousand students, representing thirty-two of our own States and Territories, and about ninety students from other countries. Of these, in the neighborhood of seventy came from the British West Indies, which would alone give us a right to expect the presence here of one who would come in any event because he is interested deeply and genuinely in every movement for the benefit of mankind—Mr. Bryce, the British Ambassador.

Every graduate of an institution of learning who goes out into the world has many difficulties to face. Few have more difficulties to face than those who graduate from this institution. You graduates know how much of hardship you have had to encounter, how much you have had to draw upon all of the courage, and faith, and resolution, and good temper that you had in you. The under-graduates will learn the same lesson I trust that each one of you here will realize the peculiar burden of responsibility that rests upon him, not only as an educated American citizen, but as an educated member of a race that is struggling upward toward higher and better things.

The esteem that your fellow-citizens bear you, the way that they look upon you, the way in which they feel about the effects of education as it shows itself in you, will in a large degree meas-

ure their belief in and regard for the colored race. You bear a great burden of responsibility upon your shoulders, and men who come from this institution.

I trust you will realize it, and that help will be given to you from on high to bear it well and worthily. I know of no man graduating from any college in the United States who has a heavier load of responsibility than you bear, and, after all, there is no greater privilege given to any man than to have such a load to carry, if only he carries it well.

There is every reason why you should realize the weight of the burden; there is every reason why you should carry it buoyantly and bravely.

You turn out men and women into many different professions. Of course, a peculiar importance attaches to those who in after life go into the ministry. A minister needs to remember, what each one of us here needs to remember—but he needs to remember it more than any one else—the truth of the biblical saying that "by your fruits shall men know you." A minister needs to feel that it is incumbent upon him not merely to preach a high, and yet a sane morality, but to see that his life bears out his preaching in every minute detail.

His position is one of peculiar leadership, and therefore a peculiar weight of obligation attaches to it. Nothing can be more important for any people, or any race, than to have those members of that people or race who follow the profession of the ministry so conduct themselves as to be a source of inspiration to their own flocks, and at the same time to win from the outside world a respect and esteem, the effects of which will be felt not only by them, but by all their people. Important though it is that there should be a high standard of morality, a high standard of good citizenship among persons of every profession, it is most of all important that such should be the case among those who are to teach their fellows in the things of the soul.

I have also taken a peculiar interest, because of having seen the effects of their work close at hand, in the graduates in medicine of this university. I believe you have, all told, graduated something like a thousand in medicine, and I happen to know that a peculiar need of achievement has come to these men. I think that the average of accomplishment has been peculiarly

high among the graduates in medicine of this institution. I earnestly hope that the average graduate of your medical department will not stay around Washington; that he won't try to get into some government position; that he won't go to some other large city. I hope he will go out and dwell among his fellow-citizens of color in their own homes, and be to them not only a healer of their bodies, but a center of raising them in every part of their lives.

I have been struck in traveling through the South to find how many colored doctors have gone into other business, as well. Very naturally, frequently you will find that they own drug stores, and I was struck by what very nice drug stores, and how prosperous many of them have been. I was struck by the esteem in which they were held, as a rule, by all of their neighbors, and by the evident fact that each colored doctor who did his work well exercised a very perceptible influence in raising the standard of citizenship of all the colored citizens of the locality in which he resided. I do not think that a more effective bit of home missionary work can be done than is being done in this way.

I have spoken a word of only two of the professions into which the graduates of this university go. What I have to say, however, applies to all. It is from this institution that are graduated those who will lead and teach their less fortunate fellows. Upon their leading and teaching much depends for their race and for their country. I earnestly hope, as every good citizen does, that strength will be abundantly given to the men and women who undertake this work of leadership and teaching; that their labors may be indeed fruitful, and that when they come to the end of their lives they shall have that feeling of satisfaction, than which none can be greater, that to them it has been vouchsafed to lead a life of service that was worth rendering.—*The Evening Star.*

BOOST ARTS AND CRAFTS.

NEW YORK PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROMOTE INDUSTRIAL STUDY.

A novel experiment in public education—a children's arts and crafts community, operating twenty-five municipal workshops, studios, and printing rooms—has been inaugurated among the 600,000 children of the local schools by the public school authorities. Already nearly five hundred boys and girls, twelve to fifteen years of age, the industrial cream of twenty-five elementary schools, have been enrolled in the "Children's Crafts Society of New York," and after school hours are busily engaged in designing and fashioning artistic household appointments, jewelry, and articles of apparel from metal, wood, leather, cloth, and paper. Under the direction of skilled teachers, these little folks are carrying on nine different art industries, including book-binding, fretted, etched, and repousse metal work, chip carving, leather tooling, joinery, stenciling, and the making of book plates, monotypes, and block prints. The standard of work set for these little craftsmen has been that the product must be "good enough to sell," and according to competent critics, much of their work is already far from amateurish. The public school authorities, however, are not anxious to bring these children into trade competition, and their work has either been taken away to beautify the tenement homes of the makers, or else collected by the teachers for a great exhibition, which will be held during the school year at the Metropolitan Museum of Art—probably the first time that children's art work has ever been shown on this scale in this temple of master craftsmen.

This children's crafts community, which has the support of City Superintendent William H. Maxwell, was organized and is carried on by Dr. J. P. Haney, public school director of manual arts, and his corps of supervising art teachers, who have volunteered to give their time without compensation to training children after 3 o'clock. The board of education has granted the use of the school work-shops and art rooms, and provided all tools needed, and "friends" of the arts have supplied the materials used by the juvenile artificers. There is absolutely no charge to the children.

The children's crafts community is really a plan on the part of the New York public school system to solve the problem of the child's wasted years, the years between fourteen and sixteen, when so many children leave the schools to enter employments which are undesirable, both from the point of view of remuneration and of learning anything worth while. A large proportion of these children drift into unskilled trades, where they are submerged for the rest of their lives. How serious a problem this is becoming is evidenced by the fact that, according to an eminent educator, 5,000,000 school children "deserted" between the time the public schools closed last June and when they opened in September.

Hence, the New York experiment is being watched with interest by school authorities throughout the country.

In the craft club the brilliant pupil is not hampered by the lock-step system which regulates progress in the regular classroom by the ability of the average. The clever boy can go as fast as he likes, and can specialize on a particular line. It also gives him a chance to test in actual shop practice his leaning toward craftsmanship as a calling, and so lets him decide between the arts and clerical employ. Admission to the community, therefore, is limited absolutely to those who show special ability. The children organize not as a class, but as a club or guild, working at one industry after school two hours each week. The clubs also form the Children's Crafts Society, which will hold annual exhibitions, at which prizes and mentions will be awarded by a grown-up jury of experts. A series of Saturday morning children's lectures on crafts will be given by leading artists and designers. So greatly has this plan interested Sir Casper Purdon Clarke, the director of the Metropolitan Museum, that he has invited the Children's Society to meet in the museum hall. The museum, also, for the first time, has recently extended to little artists the privilege of sketching in its collections.

The craft work for the children consists of four elements—designing, making working drawings, color application, and, finally, the tool work. In the leather crafts the children make tooled leather belts, portfolios, bags, card cases, purses, desk sets, and mats. In the bookbinding guilds they assemble and stitch pages, put on covers, and then decorate or tool the bound vol-

umes into charming gift books. Another club designs and makes book plates.

Curtains, scarfs, and individual designs on burlap, denim, silk, and other cloths for screens, table covers, and mural decorations are made by the children in the stenciling craft. The metal crafters use copper sheets in three different ways. The etchers scratch designs on an asphaltum surface, and then apply nitric acid, which bites the lines into the metal. The fretted metal workers bore and saw out open-work designs, and the repousse clubs hammer metal into all sorts of ornamental and useful forms. In these clubs children as young as twelve years have made commercially valuable vessels, trays, ash receivers, desk appointments, hinges, lock escutcheons, push plates, jewel boxes, fobs, belt buckles, and paper knives.

The monotypists paint pictures on glass, and then make an impression on Japanese paper much like an etching. The wood block printers carve in low relief on wood, and then print from the block by hand. The chip carvers, who are doing work which Swedish craftsmen originated as a profitable recreation for the long winters, chip out designs with the peculiar triangular cut made with a special knife, and so decorate broad boards, boxes, table tops, etc. In some of the classes ambitious little workers make real furniture—simple but artistic in line. Investigators of the Industrial Education Society, of which Dr. Haney is also a director, have expressed surprise at the excellence of the work of these children, which they say in many cases compares favorably in artistic form and cleverness of execution with articles offered for sale in exclusive art shops.—*The Evening Star.*

LIBERIA'S BAR ASSOCIATION.

Considering that the movements of the French on its "hinterland," and in the field of diplomacy, recently, have created a doubt whether Liberia has any very certain prospect of a future, or indeed has any very real existence at present as an autonomous State among the world's governments, it is curious to see that a Liberian National Bar Association was organized there in January last, as the printed report of the proceedings just re-

ceived attests. The speeches delivered on the occasion are full of dignity, and not the burlesque dignity of the middle man of the minstrel show, either. Take this remark from the opening address of the President of the Republic, Hon. Arthur Barclay: "In modern times the central point of the State is law. As men grew to learn the lesson of brotherhood, to recognize the rights of individuals, and to realize that altruism is productive of more peace, of more happiness, of more comfort, than individualism, they made law the central idea of Statehood. True, the change from a God to a principle was slow, but it was steady. The firm tread of the generations following the disappearance of the Roman Empire has been heard without ceasing all adown the ages. At times the step of the multitude has passed over rough places, as at Runnymede, at the Bastille, at Bunker Hill, and at Port au Prince. But, like the ever-rolling sea, that tread has gone on, setting up law in the form of constitutions as the central idea of the State, around which people have rallied and by which they have governed themselves under wise statutes of their own making."

If that quality of thinking and power of expression be anything to indicate the thought and eloquence of the educated and influential classes of Liberia, it would seem that the destinies of the Republic were at all events not in danger from any lack of intelligence in its ruling class leading to any misunderstanding of relations to the modern world. All the speeches betrayed public spirit and an enlightened patriotism, proving that the cultivated class at Monrovia, at least, are in touch with the events of the day throughout the world, and not only with modern events, but modern ideas, and that they are constantly at work strengthening the institutions of their little nation with a full purpose of perpetuating the Republic of Liberia.

One would hardly believe, to examine this curiosity of literature, that its utterances represented a mere handful, variously estimated at from twenty to sixty thousand of educated blacks lost in a population of over two millions of Mohammedan Africans, and that they were surrounded by ten times as many millions more in a little strip of territory not much larger than the State of Maine, stretching along four hundred miles of coast near the equator. The Republic is sixty years old this year.—*Boston Transcript.*

MISSIONARY TO AFRICA.

PARISH OF THE HOLY APOSTLE, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

Rev. Samuel E. Appleton, D. D., Associate Rector, December, 1907.

Referring to the minute in the vestry of the Church of the Holy Apostles' report with regard to the desire of the Rev. Mr. Brown to go as a missionary to Africa, the following correspondence between the rector and himself will explain itself:

Copy of Minute Prepared by the Rector and Sent to Rev. Thomas G. Brown.

NOVEMBER 16, 1907.

Rev. THOMAS G. BROWN, 751 S. Fifteenth street, Philadelphia.

MY DEAR MR. BROWN: At the last meeting of the vestry I took it upon myself to bring to the notice of the vestry your determination to go to Africa as a missionary, provided the vestry and the Bishop consented and the Board of Missions were willing to send you. The announcement met with sympathetic and appreciative approval.

A resolution was passed directing me, as rector of the parish, to communicate with you from the vestry, and to say that the vestry have heard of your determination with sympathy and regret.

The vestry realize the high honor which has been conferred upon our parish, in that one of our clergy should desire to devote himself to so noble a self-sacrifice and work for the Master, and that far from doing anything to impede your progress, they will do everything in their power to enable you to fulfill your godly determination.

Wishing you God's richest blessing upon this glorious venture, and committing you ever to His holy care and keeping, believe me,

Affectionately yours,

(Signed) NATHANIEL S. THOMAS.

Copy of Letter Received by the Rector from Rev. Thomas G. Brown.

PHILADELPHIA, *November* 18, 1907.

REVEREND AND DEAR MR. THOMAS: I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your kind letter of the 16th instant, informing me that at the last meeting of the vestry of the parish you presented to that body my determination, which is so dear to my heart, to become a missionary to Africa, and that the same was met with sympathetic approval; also that a resolution was passed by the vestry directing you, as rector of the parish, to inform me of their interest and co-operation in the fulfillment of my desire. In reply, I desire first to thank you individually for your warm interest which you have taken in this matter, and would also ask you to express to the vestry my sincere thanks and appreciation for their hearty expression of sympathy; also for their consent to the furtherance of my determination.

Thanking you kindly, I am,

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) THOS. G. BROWN.

—*Parish Intelligencer, December,* 1907.

BRILLIANT INAUGURAL.

PRESIDENT BARCLAY'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS, DELIVERED JANUARY 6TH, 1908.

Today for the third time I have taken the oath required by the constitution of the chief executive officer before he enters upon the discharge of the duties of President of Liberia. I entertain the deepest sense of appreciation of this new proof of your confidence. Your approbation inspires me with renewed zeal to so conduct myself, with your assistance, as shall best satisfy your just expectations. I have endeavored conscientiously to observe the oath of office, and to see that the laws have been executed, as well as, so far as circumstances have permitted, to carry into effect the principles declared in other previous inaugural addresses.

This occasion is a memorable one because the term of office,

both of the executive officers as well as members of the legislature, has been extended for four years. This reform was advocated by President Warner in the sixties, and was successively brought forward by Presidents Payne, Roye, Gardner, and others during a period of forty years, but was not adopted. It was placed before the people of Liberia by the legislature at the last biennial election, and it has now been approved. The people of Liberia are very conservative and very suspicious. The idea of the party which supported this reform is, that under the old system no adequate time was given for both the conception and execution of political and administrative ideas of the men chosen to exercise executive and legislative functions. There was consequently a great waste of power, either from suppression or from imperfect development and execution. The fear of those who oppose the reform is that the executive and legislative branches of the government will use their enlarged political opportunities for personal and selfish ends; that, if not called upon at the end of every eighteen months to give an account of their stewardship, they would forget that they were stewards and servants. For this fear there is an effectual remedy. Keep your public servants under constant and vigilant observation; require explanations of their official actions in public or in private. When they go wrong, retire them permanently. Advance and reward them only in proportion as their conduct and public services justify your action.

This day marks another epoch in the history of the country. It is the jubilee of the Republic. Sixty years ago, on the first of January, 1848, on this very spot, the first President of Liberia took the oath of office, and the State was launched upon the sea of national life. All the distinguished men who have successively been called to the direction of public affairs by popular election have in this inclosure, in the presence of the representatives of the people, taken the oath required by the constitution. It is a spot of hallowed memories. It is the hub of the national wheel.

President Roberts arranged our relations with most of the great powers, drove out the slave traders, and set in motion the national machinery.

President Benson devoted himself to the fostering of agricul-

ture and internal improvements and the maintenance of internal order. He first established public schools.

President Warner called attention to the necessity of encouraging and developing national industries. He first drew attention to the political importance of the native tribes as an element of the body politic.

President Payne gave further shape to the public school system and established the interior department.

President Roye obtained our first loan with the special object of ameliorating financial conditions, opened up the hinterland, and protected the highways from marauders by the establishment of the blockhouses.

Under President Roberts, upon his second induction into the Presidency after an interval of sixteen years, the treasury department was reorganized and large sections of the hinterland explored under government auspices. The opening and making of coffee plantations was strenuously encouraged.

President Payne, upon his return to the Presidency, after an interval, dealt with the Grebo revolt. He declared that the national domain was held by the government for the benefit of the aborigines as well as for the civilized Liberians.

Under President Gardner, among other useful measures, the administration of the customs was improved. The first attempt was made to collect the duties partly in specie, a movement which was steadily pursued under President Johnson.

This administrator, the first native-born Liberian elected to the Presidency, endeavored to remove the impression, then very prevalent in Europe, that Liberia was utterly opposed to the introduction of foreign capital or to development or improvement of any kind. He therefore promoted the grant to an English company of the right to collect rubber in the public forests, as well as supported a concession asked for by an American capitalist for the building of railroads. Under his administration the question of the northwestern frontier of Liberia was finally settled. He greatly improved and strengthened our relations with foreign powers.

Mr. Cheeseman dealt principally with disturbances in Maryland county, which he happily succeeded in quelling, and left that section of the Republic entirely pacified. He negotiated the French arrangement of 1892. He died at his post.

President Coleman devoted his principal attention to aboriginal affairs, aiming to bring the country under more complete administrative control. The measures which he approved in connection with the 7 per cent loan of 1871 restored our financial credit in Europe. He reopened Liberia College, and gave the institution financial support.

President Gibson, among other measures, encouraged the effort to develop the possible mineral resources of the country, and secured the delimitation of our northwestern boundary.

The legislature has, during the last sixty years, impressed all observers that it is an extremely conservative and cautious body. It has regarded with great suspicion any new departure in policy or in action, and has given its assent thereto only after full consideration, and only then when it has been thereto assured that the new movement has the general support of the electorate. It has at all times been very regardful of its oath to uphold and defend the constitution.

The jubilee of the Supreme Court finds it in possession of an honorable record. It has done its best to live up to its motto, "Let justice be done to all." It was unfortunate for the national government in its early stages that the low state of public education prevented for a long time the training of a class of professional men able to fill the more important judicial posts. There has been great improvement in this respect during the last quarter of a century, but the country has often not been able to obtain for their judicial posts the services of their best legal talent, because the remuneration offered was insufficient. The people, however, have done their best to have an honest judiciary. No judge convicted of improper conduct has ever been able to prevent by any sort of influence his removal from office. Grand jurors have zealously and without favoritism presented criminals and striven to repress crime and uphold morality. Petit jurors have invariably respected their oaths to give verdicts according to evidence. The bar is composed of men far more learned and competent than in former years, and there is every sign that the country intends to have a more efficient judiciary than ever before in its history.

I believe that the temporary stoppage of immigration has been to this country a blessing in disguise. It has turned the atten-

tion of the thinking people to our native citizens as the ultimate prop and stay of our body politic. While respectable bodies of immigrants came into the Republic, this reservoir of national life, the aboriginal population was entirely ignored. When the stream of American immigration shall again turn toward Liberia, as I believe it eventually will, the country will have become settled upon the question of the value of the aboriginal citizen, and, all friction and hard feelings being avoided, the unity in tone of the whole population will be assured, and the political and economic development of the country assisted. Among the qualities of great value to the country which American immigrants, fresh from their homes in temperate regions and fresh from the rush of great communities, have contributed are initiative and energy. The stranger must exert himself to gain a footing. The energy and push which he has to exert are of advantage to and diffuse itself through the whole community. Successive bodies of immigrants of this kind serve as an industrial tonic, and for this reason no obstacle should be put in the way of new men.

In our jubilee year we should remember with gratitude our diplomatic and consular corps, mostly Europeans, who during these sixty years have mainly, at their own expense, faithfully served Liberia and its interests in the United States, England, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Hayti, Belgium, and other countries.

To sum up, fellow-citizens, the record of Liberian rule for the last sixty years, that while there has not been brilliant or striking expansion, yet we may justly contend that there has been substantial progress along all lines. We have more than doubled the area of our territory. We have maintained an orderly government. We have increased the number of civilized centers. Our right to administer the country has been admitted by all inhabitants. Our revenue has constantly increased, and is still expanding. The standard of life is higher, and the people live in greater comfort. The bulk of our aboriginal population is attached to our government, and contented under our rule. The administrative machinery has been augmented and improved. The interests of religion have been cared for, and the people cheerfully contribute to the support of Christian and benevolent

objects. Other forms of religious beliefs other than the Christian religion have been tolerated and respected. Large numbers of aboriginal citizens have obtained and freely exercise the right of suffrage under laws facilitating their admission into the governing body—the electorate of the country. The chiefs of the country are recognized as local officials, and exercise municipal functions under regular commissions. The courts of justice have been directed to recognize customary native law in disposing of matters between aboriginal citizens. The public credit has been cared for, and there has not been a single instance of the repudiation of the pecuniary obligations of the Republic. Perceiving that internal warfare lowers the standard of civilization and retards that amalgamation between all section of the population so necessary to the political interests of the county, the government has abstained from constant armed interference in tribal wars, preferring to act as a court of appeal. But it has not hesitated, where its authority was defied, to enforce its decisions by force of arms. The great importance of popular education has been recognized, and the subject has had at all times the careful attention and reasonable support of our public service. The worthy Negro immigrant from all lands has been welcomed and placed on the same footing and given the same recognition as that accorded to the founders of the State and their descendants. The self-respecting European has been able to reside in the Republic without disturbance or annoyance from our citizens, either Americo-Liberians or aborigines. The people generally have been law abiding. Their love of country and their attachment to its institutions are undisputed. They have at all times responded willingly to the call of their country in peace or war, and have done their duty nobly. In all lines of national life Liberia has responded to every reasonable expectation. The work before us, the obligation upon us now is to so discharge our duties as that our descendants may point to and record the progress and prosperity of our generation.—*The African Agricultural World.*

LINCOLN AS A MASTER OF MEN.

This is the ninety-ninth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. It is forty-three years since the death of Lincoln. The men of his day and generation have largely passed away. The civil war has been over a long time. This is a new century of other manners and new activities. Yet there is nothing remote about the name and fame of Lincoln. He is close to us, and growing closer. Here, as everywhere, the observation of the day increases year by year.

The explanation of this extraordinary fact is at once simple and satisfactory. It is that the American people never appreciated Lincoln while he was alive. When he was taken away from us we began to see him as he was. We are now beginning to appreciate him.

Many loved Lincoln devotedly while he was alive. Others saw that he was a thoroughly good man. But in general even those who loved him and those who trusted him utterly failed to realize that we was as great as he was good.

The failure of Lincoln to win the appreciation of those who had every chance to judge him seems incredible to us now. Nevertheless, one may hazard a guess as to the belittling power of intimacy in his case.

Never in the history of the world was there a great man so entirely and consistently his natural self. He was homely and ungainly and poorly dressed—and he knew it and joked about it. He was entirely self-made—and he was not proud of the job. He was ambitious—and frankly admitted it. He was so modest, so honest, and so "easy" that not a few thought he must be simple-minded. He was easy of access, and was the same to every one.

Traits like these are not evidences of genius in the mind of the common people, who prefer that their idols shall pose. Stephen A. Douglas, Lincoln's lifelong and successful rival until the final test came, posed effectively; therefore they knew he was great, and dubbed him the "Little Giant." Lincoln never posed; therefore it never occurred to them that he could be great.

To be sure, there were some who came to appreciate Lincoln before his death. There were a comparative few who learned by experience that he was "easy" only when it didn't matter, and that, instead of being simple-minded, he was literally and absolutely a master of men.

Douglas, to whom he put the question at Freeport that saved the United States, came to know him as his master—and held his hat for him while he took the oath of office as President. Fremont, the "soldier statesman," whom he made—and unmade—learned the same lesson. So did McClellan, the "Young Napoleon." So did Seward, who went into the Cabinet prepared and expecting to take the reins of government. So did Chase, the "indispensable man," who resigned once too often—and, thanks to Lincoln's magnanimity, administered to him the second oath of office.

Even Stanton, that saturnine Titan of the Cabinet, who was in the habit of referring to Lincoln as the "original gorilla," who openly prophesied that Jeff Davis would be in the White House within six months, who believed himself called into the Cabinet for the express purpose of holding up the hands of an impotent President—even Stanton learned his lesson. It took him a long time, but he learned it well. When Lincoln drew his last breath Stanton said: "There lies the most perfect ruler of men the world has ever seen."

But it was not until the homely face and ungainly figure of Lincoln were gone from sight, and his pointed jest was no longer heard, that the American people began to see Lincoln as he was, not as we had assumed him to be. And year by year we are coming to know him better.

We know now, among other things, that this self-made man from the log cabin was truly an educated man; that this backwoods circuit rider was not only an honest lawyer, but a great lawyer; that this past master of the art of story-telling used his art with a purpose; that this cross-roads debater and political stump-speaker was an orator to whom it was given to speak words that are immortal—words that are as much a part of our national heritage as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. We know now—not some of us, but all of us—that this man who saved the Union by force of arms and brought

peace out of the hell of civil war, did these great things in an even greater spirit; that he wrought "with malice toward none, with charity for all." And we know now that this man, who was so human that he did not seem to be great, was yet a lonely soul, set apart for a great work and aware of his mission. The time may come when we shall forget in part his "infinite jest," but never the infinite sadness of his deep-lined face. Providence raised up Abraham Lincoln. And we are just beginning to understand.—*The Chicago Inter-Ocean.*

PRESIDENT'S POSITION EMPHASIZED IN AN ADDRESS TO EDUCATORS.

TRAIN THE YOUNG AND ADD TO SUM OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP.

That there will be no let-up in President Roosevelt's policy of warring "against rottenness and corruption" was emphatically declared by the President yesterday afternoon in an address to the delegates during their reception at the White House. The President gave his views on educational methods at considerable length and with characteristic catholicity of thought and vigor of expression.

"Of all the bodies of citizens that I have received here at the White House," said the President, "there is none which occupies a more important relation than yours—I am tempted to say none has come that has occupied as important a relation to the nation, because you men and women who deal with education, who represent the great American policy of education for all children, provided by the public as the prime duty of the public, bear a relation to the family, a relation to the future of our whole people, such as no other like number of individuals can bear. I own six of the children that you educate, and I am prepared to extend cordial sympathy to some of you.

"Seriously, friends, it is idle for any man to talk of despairing of the future of this country or feeling unduly alarmed about it if he will come in contact with you here and with the forces that you represent. Fundamentally this country is sound, morally no less than physically. Fundamentally, in its family life and in the outside activities of its individuals, the country is better,

and not worse, than it formerly was. This does not mean that we are to be excused if we fail to war against rottenness and corruption, if we fail to contend effectively with the forces of evil; and they waste their time who ask me to withhold my hand from dealing therewith.

"But it is worth while to smite the wrong for the very reason that we are confident that the right will ultimately prevail. You who are training the next generation are training this country as it is to be a decade or two hence; and while your work in training the intellect is great, it is not as great as your work in training character. More than anything else, I want to see the public school turn out the boy and girl who when man and woman will add to the sum of good citizenship of the nation. It is not my province, nor would it be with my capacity, to speak about your pedagogic problems. You yourselves are far better able to discuss them. But as a layman let me say one or two things about your work.

"In the first place I trust that more and more our people will see to it that the schools train toward and not away from the farm and the workshop. We have spoken a great deal about the dignity of labor in this country; but we have not acted up to our spoken words, for in our education we have tended to proceed upon the assumption that the educated man was to be educated away from and not toward labor.

"The great nations of medieval times who left such marvelous works of architecture and art behind them were able to do so because they educated alike the brain and hand of the craftsman. We, too, in our turn, must show that we understand the law which decrees that a people which loses physical address invariably deteriorates; so that our people shall understand that the good character, the good blacksmith, the good mechanic, the good farmer, really do fill the most important positions in our land; and that it is an evil thing for them and for the nation to have their sons and daughters forsake the work which, if well and efficiently performed, means more than any other work for our people as a whole.

"One thing that I would like to have you teach your pupils is that whether you call the money gained salary or wages does not make any real difference, and that if by working hard with your

hands you get more than if you work with your head only, it does not atone for it to call the smaller amount salary. The term 'dignity of labor' implies that manual labor is as dignified as mental labor, as, of course, it is. Indeed, the highest kind of labor is that which makes demands upon the quantities of both head and hand, of heart, brain, and body. Physical prowess, physical address are necessities; they stand on a level with intellect, and only below character. Let us show that we regard the position of the man who works with his hands as being ordinarily and in good faith as important and dignified and as worthy of consideration as that of business man or professional man. We need to have a certain readjustment of values in this country, which must primarily come through the efforts of just you men and women here, and the men and women like you throughout this land.

"I would not have you preach an impossible ideal; for if you preach an ideal that is impossible you tend to make your pupils believe that no ideals are possible, and therefore you tend to do them that worst of wrongs—to teach them to divorce preaching from practice, to divorce the ideal that they in the abstract admire from the practical good after which they strive.

"Teach the boy and girl that their business is to earn their own livelihood; teach the boy that he is to be the homemaker; the girl that she must ultimately be the housekeeper; that the work of the father is to be the breadwinner, and that of the mother the housekeeper; that their work is the most important work by far in all the land; that the work of the statesman, the writer, the captain of industry, and all the rest is condition, first, upon the work that finds its expression in the family, that supports the family.

"So teach the boy that he is to be expected to earn his own livelihood; that it is a shame and scandal for him not to be self-dependent, not to be able to hold his own in the rough work of actual life. Teach the girl that, so far from its being her duty to try to avoid all labor, all effort, it should be a matter of pride to her to be as good a housewife as her mother was before her. Sometimes the kindest and most well-meaning mother, sometimes a kind and well-meaning father also, do as much damage to the children as the most thoughtless and selfish parent could,

by bringing them up to feel that the goal of their attainment should be the absence of effort instead of effort well directed.

"We have all of us often heard some good, but unwise, women say 'I have worked hard; my daughter shan't work,' the poor woman not realizing that great though the curse of mere drudgery of overwork is, it is not as great as the curse of vapid idleness, and it does not make any difference whether the idleness is that of the hobo at one end of the scale or the gilded youth at the other. Do not waste time in envying the idler at either end of the social scale. Envy is not the proper attitude toward them.

"The proper attitude toward them is a good humored but thorough disapproval of the man or woman who is so blind not only to the interests of society as a whole, but to his or her own real interests, as to believe that anything permanent can be gained from a life of selfish and vacuous idleness.

"Such idleness is the poorest investment in the long run that can be imagined; and there is no surer way to forfeit all chance of real happiness than to set deliberately to work to treat pleasure as the only aim after which to strive. Teach the boy and girl to work; teach them their proper duty to the home; their duty to one another and toward their neighbors. Then teach them more; teach them to build upon this as a foundation the superstructure of the higher life.

"I want to see our education directed more and more toward training boys and girls back to the farm and shop, so that they will be first-rate farmers, first-rate mechanics, fit to work with the head and to work with the hands; and realizing that work with the hands is just as honorable as work with the head. In addition, I want to see a training that will make every boy, every girl leaving the public school, leaving the schools of the nation, feel impelled so to carry himself or herself that the net result, when his or her life has been lived, shall be an addition to the sum total of decent living and achievement for the nation, and have them understand that they are never going to amount to much in the big things if they don't first amount to something in the little things. The effort should be made to teach every one that the first requisite of good citizenship is doing the duties that are near at hand. But, of course, this does not excuse a

man from doing the other duties, too. It is no excuse if a man neglects his political duties to say that he is a good husband and father, still less is it an excuse if he is guilty of corruption in politics or business to say that his home life is all right. He ought to add to decency in his home life, decency in politics, decency in public life.

"So my plea is not that the homely duties are all-sufficient," said the President in closing, "but that they are a necessary base upon which to build the superstructure of the higher life: our children should be trained to do the homely duties in the first place, and then in addition to have it in them to carry themselves that collectively we may well and fitly perform the great and responsible tasks of American citizenship."—*The Evening Star.*

HONEST "ABE LINCOLN."

In the humble home where Abraham Lincoln spent his early years, there was but one book—his mother's Bible—and from its pages she taught her children daily. The boy had been at school for two or three months, and had learned to read. Of quick mind and retentive memory, he soon became familiar with much of the sacred book, and it was nothing unusual for him to recite whole chapters of its precious teachings to his mother, as they sat together on Sabbath evenings. Even at that early age he seemed to grasp the meaning of what he read, and to look upon his gentle teacher as the embodiment of all the good precepts in the book. He never forgot her teachings in that little humble cabin, and nearly half a century afterward, when he governed thirty million people, he said: "All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother—blessings on her memory."

When he was only ten years old the precious mother faded like a flower amid the hardships of pioneer life, and dying, still in early womanhood, was laid to rest in a plain box under the trees near the cabin, in a grave which Abraham and his father dug with their own hands. The blow almost killed the boy, and day after day he sat on the lonely gave and wept. Child though he was, he could not be reconciled to the dearly beloved one being buried without any religious services, and nine months after her death, with his father's consent, he wrote a letter to

Parson Elkins, a good minister whom they had known in Kentucky, asking him to come and preach a funeral sermon in memory of his dear mother. He came on horseback, over a hundred miles, and one bright Sabbath morning, when the neighbors from near and far had gathered to hear his words, he spoke over the grave of the precious Christian life of her who slept beneath.

She died early, but she lived long enough to instill into her son's mind a love for truth, honesty, and good will to men. He earned the name of "Honest Abe" fairly, and long before he was known to the public people jokingly applied it to him, because he was so scrupulously honest in his dealings.

While still a lad he was employed in a store at New Salem. On one occasion a woman bought a bill of goods, amounting to two dollars and six and a quarter cents, but in adding the items he made it two dollars and twelve and a half cents. He did not discover the error until after she left, and then being in charge of the store, he could do nothing. But as soon as he locked up for the night, he started off on a two-mile walk in the rain to return the six and a fourth cents. The woman had not noticed the mistake, and, at any rate, it was so trifling that she chided him for what she called his foolishness. "It would have been dishonest to keep it," he argued. "It was my mistake, and even if you would not have missed it, it would have hurt us, being wrongfully withheld from the owner."

Another time a woman asked for a half pound of tea, which he weighed and wrapped up for her. But after she went out, he found to his amazement that he had used a four-ounce weight on the scales, and at once walked a long distance to deliver it to her. She laughed at his strict notions of honesty, and told him that he would never get rich that way.

"I should not want to get rich at other people's expense," Abe returned soberly. "Right's right always, and wrongs no man."

"But such trifles are not worth noticing," insisted the woman. "Everybody laughs at your 'over-righteousness,' as they call your too scrupulous honesty."

Abe's face flushed at this thrust, but he could not see what there was to laugh at in being honest in trifles, and all the answer he made was, "Better be laughed at for being too honest than not honest enough."

And this was a conviction that he carried with him through life, and the "Honest Abe," who later occupied the highest place in the gift of the American people, was only a fulfillment of the promise of the boy, in whose character honesty in trifles had been one of the foundation stones.—*The Lutheran.*

ITEMS.

ENGLAND—INCREASED COST OF FOOD COMMODITIES AND COAL.—Consul F. W. Mahin, of Nottingham, makes the following report on the advance in prices of various articles of merchandise in England:

The retail price of bread has just been advanced in Nottingham on all grades from 6 to 6½ cents for the best 2-pound loaf. Advances have been made generally throughout England. There is no collusion or agreement, and therefore no uniformity in advance of prices, which range from 5 to 7 cents, best 2-pound loaf, in different localities. Bakers generally have refrained from raising prices as long as possible, until losing money in some cases, and the advance in this locality is now less in proportion than the increased cost of flour. In the past six months alone flour has risen 8s. ($1.95) per sack of 20 stone (280 pounds), and a further rise is probable, which will advance bread prices still higher, if present crop indications are verified.

On the whole, the cost of living in this country has increased in the past two years. Coming simultaneously with the return of general prosperity, the general cause of the advance in prices is evident. There is no question as to coal, now sold at an increase in price of a dollar or more a ton over a year ago. This advance is chiefly due to the much increased demand in factories and other industries, and it is so far the most serious increase in the price of any commodity. Bread, however, is affected by the comparative shortage in wheat supplies, though the increased price would probably be less if purchasing power had not been augmented by good times.

Sugar, tea, cocoa, pepper, cutlery, carpets, blankets, various canned goods, and other household articles also cost more than a year or so ago. Cheese, bacon, and meats generally are fairly stationary in price. Butter is slightly lower than a year ago, owing apparently to the increasing supplies sent over from Denmark. For the enhanced cost of commodities the workingman finds compensation in the active demand for labor at higher wages. The chief sufferers are the railways, which are paying heavily increased prices for coal without any compensation, and persons with fixed incomes, or depending upon dividends on stocks and other securities, now so generally depressed in this country.—*Monthly Consular and Trade Reports, December,* 1907.

British India—High Prices of Food the Cause of Unrest.—Consul General W. H. Michael makes the following report from Calcutta on the high prices of foodstuffs in India:

In the middle of July rice in Bengal was 58 per cent dearer than what is considered the normal price, wheat 26 per cent dearer, and maize 70 per cent above normal. The public discussion of the situation has brought out a report of the director of agriculture, which affirms that prices of food grains all over India have advanced rapidly and unprecedentedly. Especially have prices risen rapidly and sharply in eastern Bengal, and clear-headed men on the spot are bold to say that the distress caused by dear food and small wage are responsible for the perturbed condition of society in that part of India.

During the last three years the harvests in eastern Bengal and Assam have been considered poor, especially the rice crop, which is the staple food of the laboring and poor classes. In 1904 1 rupee (32 cents) would buy 26 pounds of rice, whereas in 1906 it would buy only 10 pounds, and in 1907 about 8 pounds. Thus the Indian whose main subsistence is rice has to pay nearly three times as much for that article now as he did in 1904. For the most part his wages have not increased at all, and where wages have been advanced not a single instance can be found where the increase has been three times. The food-grain crops of 1907 promise to be very large, and it will be interesting to note any tendency to return to the prices of food grains, especially rice, that prevailed three years ago, and what effect, if any, this return to normal prices will have on the condition of "unrest" in eastern Bengal and Assam.—*Monthly Consular and Trade Reports, December,* 1907.

Nantucket's First Cup of Tea.—In a letter written one hundred and sixty years ago, says *The Epicure*, there appeared this description of how the first chest of tea was received on the island of Nantucket, and of how the first "dish" of it was made:

Cousin sent from Boston yesterday by a trusty messenger a large box of tea, the first that was ever on the island, real Chinese tea, which Nat himself procured in China. It is of a greenish color, with little shriveled leaves, and when eaten dry has a pleasant, spicy taste.

We have just had tidings that Cousin Nat and his friend, Captain Morris, intend to arrive here on the 31st of December. Uncle Nathaniel says we will have a tea-party to sit the old year out and the new year in.

We cooked a beautiful dinner, and our guests all came. I wore my new blue gown with some lace in the neck and tied back my curls.

Aunt Content has been much pestered in her mind because she knew not how to cook the tea and serve it, and after our neighbors had arrived she confided to them her perplexity.

Mrs. Lieutenant Macy said she had heard that it ought to be well

cooked to be palatable, and Aunt Edward Starbuck said a lady in Boston who had drunk tea told her that it needed a good quantity for steeping, which was the reason it was so expensive. So Aunt Content hung the bright five-gallon bell-metal kettle on the crane, and putting a two-quart bowl full of tea in it, with plenty of water, swung it over the fire to boil.

When I was laying the table, I heard Lydia Ann say, "I heard that when tea is drunk it gives a brilliancy to the eyes and a youthful freshness to the complexion. I am afraid that thy sister-in-law failed to put in a sufficient quantity."

So Aunt Esther put another bowl full of the tea into the kettle.

When the tea had boiled about an hour, down to a gallon, it was poured into grandma's silver tankard and carried to the table. Aunt Content said to her son and his friend, "I have made a dish of tea for you, but am fearful that I have not prepared it as hath need, and would like your opinion."

Whereupon my cousin looked and sniffed at the tea, and made answer:

"As my loved mother desired my opinion, I must needs tell her that a spoonful of this would nearly kill any one of us here at table."

The captain then said he would instruct me how to draw the tea. "And this young lady," he said, "shall make the first dish of the beverage used in Nantucket."—*The Presbyterian*

"Best for the Negro."—Booker T. Washington should know, and he says that the temperance movement in the South is not based only on the general desire to keep liquor away from the Negroes. He writes, in the *Southern Workman:*

"The movement is deeper than this. The fact is that the temperance sentiment is just as strong in counties where there are no colored people as in counties where they are in the majority. The Alabama State prohibition law was introduced into the legislature by a man from a county where there are practically no colored people. * * * I am convinced that there is a deep-rooted feeling in the masses of law-abiding citizens in the South that some thorough-going measures must be taken to reduce the enormous amount of crime that exists. This feeling has taken hold of many men who have themselves been addicted to the liquor habit. The movement is, in fact, a very deep and genuine one, a sort of moral revolution."

Intemperance affects alike the economic value of each race. The low drinking "joints" turn out white criminals as well as black. When the cost of Alabama's school system can be met by the profits from her prison system, it is not alone the black convict who goes out to work under guard. The white South is set against the saloon because it is a bad thing for the white South as well as because whiskey lowers the Negro's economic efficiency and increases the

menace of his presence. What deeply injures one race is almost certain to be an injury to the other likewise, a general truth which holds in this as in all other things.—*Collier's.*

British Merchants and Liberia.—President Barclay, of the Liberian Republic, accompanied by Secretary of State Johnson and Acting Attorney General Stewart, was entertained at luncheon yesterday afternoon by Sir Alfred Jones, president of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the African trade section.

Sir Alfred Jones, in proposing the toast of "The Republic of Liberia and its President," said that the country had prospered fairly well since its independence was recognized, sixty years ago, but he would like to see it more successful. What it needed was more capital, more enterprise, the development of trade, and better transport. They must endeavor to bring themselves up to date, and to encourage freedom of trade. Why were they not growing cotton in Liberia? If they directed attention to cotton cultivation they would be able to grow a large quantity, which would prove a profitable undertaking. He understood from the President that Liberia had a grievance respecting "Kroo boys," who took into Liberia guns and gunpowder which they received as wages. Personally, he would use his influence in seeing that the native laborers were paid in cash, and not in guns or gunpowder.

Mr. Barclay, in responding, paid a high tribute to the work which the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, the School of Tropical Medicine, and the Institute of Commercial Research had done for West Africa and the native races. He regretted, however, an apparent misunderstanding that prevailed between Liberia and the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce. Liberia had an idea that the Chamber was not friendly to them, and, on the other hand, the Chamber thought that Liberia was very narrow in its ideas. The Chamber of Commerce was perfectly right from its own point of view in seeking freedom of trade, but Liberia's answer was, "We must consider our political life before you can have freedom of trade." They looked at the situation from different standpoints, the commercial and the political; but he believed that ere long they would run in the same channel. The Liberian belief was that West Africa would be best served by the creation of commercial centers, and that it would be a mistake for European merchants to be going all over the country as peddlers. The creation of commercial centers tended to the benefit of Liberia and of the merchants of other countries. As Liberia got stronger she would be perfectly willing to be more liberal, but she must be strong, and pay due consideration to the law of self-preservation before there could be commercial freedom.

Mr. John Holt, speaking as an African merchant, criticised the commercial policy of Liberia, and regretted that there had not been that expansion of trade there which had taken place in other parts

of West Africa. He asked the President to look around at other parts of Africa, and see whether his idea of concentrating centers of trade on the coast was the system which made progress. He cited the progress of the Cameroons, which was an unknown place a few years ago, and today Europeans were running all over the country, with great advantage to trade and the people. So long as the "Kroo boys" paid duties to the government of Liberia he did not see why any obstacle should be put in the way of their taking guns and gunpowder into the country.

Mr. Johnson said that Mr. Holt's speech supported his opinion that a great many people were not properly acquainted with the position of affairs in Liberia. Complaints had been made to them by the French that natives were smuggling into Liberia large quantities of gunpowder and improved arms. Liberia was a party to the Brussels Convention, and they had pledged themselves to prohibit the importation of gunpowder and arms. With respect to the advantage which was claimed for the commercial policy which obtained in the Cameroons, he might say that some time ago he visited Fernando Po, and there found things deplorably bad; but Fernando Po was a paradise to the Cameroons. What Liberia was doing was for her own preservation. But he was afraid they were not sympathized with by Sir Alfred Jones. ("Yes, you are.") Liberia did more commerce with Great Britain than with France. They spoke the English language and had adopted a good many of the British institutions, and they ought to sympathize with Liberia instead of sneering at her. There was no man with more liberal views in respect to commerce than President Barclay, and as a result of his visit he hoped they would be more tolerant.

Mr. Stewart, the Acting Attorney General, said, despite the fact that their forefathers came direct out of slavery, Liberia had made great progress.

Sir Alfred Jones assured the President that Liberia had the best wishes of himself, of Mr. Holt, and of the Chamber of Commerce for its future welfare.—*The Times.*

Negro Congressmen.—Since the abolition of slavery in the United States, in 1865, many Negroes have held official positions. Two were United States Senators, twenty-two Representatives, three Registers of the Treasury, several lieutenant governors of States. About forty have held diplomatic and consular positions. Many have been officers in the army, and six were recorders of deeds in the District of Columbia. A fine engraving of these Negro Congressmen has just been issued, giving accurate portraits of each; also the Congress in which they served and the years of service. In the picture the two Senators, Messrs. Revels and Bruce, occupy the center of the group, surrounded by the other eighteen Representatives. In the background the Stars and Stripes in color. This beautiful engraving,

with a booklet containing biographies of these eminent men, is sold for one dollar. The Colored American Novelty Co., P. O. Drawer 2318, Washington, D. C.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT AND LIBERIA.—The communication printed below indicates clearly the far-reaching wisdom and courage of the President of the United States in dealing with the interests of our people in the Republic of Liberia. Without such aid furnished at a critical moment on the part of the President, it is doubtful whether the Liberian Republic would have come out of the serious situation so fortunately as it has. We are sure that Afro-Americans are grateful to the President of our country for his timely and wise influence exerted in behalf of our brethren across the seas shown at a critical moment.—*The New York Age.*

ENCROACHMENTS IN LIBERIA.—To *The New York Age:* Readers of your paper have doubtless noted the fact that the President of the Liberian Republic has been spending some weeks in England. Perhaps it is not generally known in the United States what mission caused him and members of his official family to go to England. For a number of months England and France have been encroaching upon Liberian territory. Not very long ago their encroachments grew into the shape of almost a demand for a very large and valuable part of our country. It can be easily understood that with two such powerful nations demanding territory from a small country, such as Liberia is, that this little Republic was in a serious condition. In the midst of our difficulty the conditions were made known through certain channels to the President of the United States. As soon as President Roosevelt was made aware of the real situation and the intentions on the part of France and England, he at once began exercising an influence with the Department of State that resulted in both France and England ceasing their demands, and the result is that a compromise has been reached which is satisfactory to the Republic, and secures our future so far as the Liberian territory is concerned. All the citizens of this Republic feel grateful to the American President for exercising his powerful influence in this manner at this critical period in our history.

Perhaps it ought to be stated in this same connection that Bishop Scott, as well as other ministers residing in Liberia, did their full duty in making known the danger to which we were subjected.

I pen these few lines to you relating these facts, for the reason that I thought your readers and all of our brethren in America would be glad to know the outcome of our troubles and how the situation was relieved.—S. S.